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THE DISARMING.

A GREAT deal depends on the way in which the disarming proposed by Napoleon is carried out by the two nations. It is a delicate matter to handle. If our Government jumps at the suggestion pure and simple, and carries it out unreflectively, England may be exposed to great danger. If it does not meet it frankly, on the other hand, Napoleon has an excellent handle by which to work up a quarrel at the shortest notice. See, he may say, the haughtiness and the craft of these islanders; they are always threatening us, and, when we commence the gentle work of laying aside our weapons, they refuse to believe in our good faith! Indeed, if the man is the conspirator which many people suppose, this proposal to disarm is a master-stroke, and exactly supplies a pretext for a popular war. He knows, of course, that disarming means a different thing with us from what it means with him; but he need not tell that to his subjects. And who can tell them if he chooses that they shall not know?

In steering through this delicate business our policy ought to be at once frank, firm, and friendly. Let us show the Emperor that we really wish to live at peace with him, but that he must

allow us to be relatively as well armed as himself. Absolute disarmament, of course, is an impossibility in the present state of human society, so that at best such a measure as that proposed can be but an approximation. What may be done on both sides is to reduce forces to such a degree that neither party can enter on hostilities without preparation of a marked and lengthened character. At present the amount of forces existing constitutes a kind of tacit threat. There are ships enough afloat to get up a line of battle either in the Channel or the Mediterranean; and Cherbourg alone is a standing menace in itself. It is what the late Douglas Jerrold called "peace at full cock;" and it is easy to see that an explosion under such circumstances must always be a matter of some probability. The mere existence of strength is accompanied with a desire to employ it; and, if the French navy is to go on developing as of late years, we do not see how war can be averted. The French army is a troublesome machine to manage; but the French army has great traditions, and may amuse itself, in peace, with counting its laurels and medals. It is not so, as we all know, with the French marine: that service is haunted by the con-

sciousness of its old disasters, and the greater it grows will feel the more the desire to avenge them. If Napoleon is in downright earnest in meaning to reduce his naval force, he is doing more for the peace of the world than any man of his age. Nothing so much endangers peace as that one service. The Russians are taking pains with their navy, but it will be long before they grow so formidable in that department; and while England and France remain friends there is nothing to be feared from the Baltic. The French, however, have made solid and splendid advances as a naval Power, and may be enemies of great importance to anybody they please to attack. Let us generously admit that they sacrifice something if they deliberately cut short a career which naval men in this country could not view without a patriotic anxiety.

But how far, then, are we to go in meeting the proposal which we all hope to be sincere? If halfway, then what is halfway, and where is it? The difficulty occurs at this point.

The essence of this difficulty lies in the doubt whether Napoleon will recognise our true character as a naval Power,



DR MANNING PREACHING AT ROME.—(FROM A SKETCH BY PRISCILLA PRIMROSE.)

and interpret our wishes in a liberal spirit. He has a much easier business to manage than we have in disarming. First of all, he runs no more risk of being invaded by England than of being invaded from the moon. He has no Manchester to force economy on him—no India to drain an army already small; but—what is infinitely more important—the constitution of his marine is, as compared with ours, a perfect paradise of order and convenience. His Admiralty is better organised; every seaman in France is at his absolute disposal. He requires less than we do, and yet can get them more easily. The East and West Indies, the Pacific, the Lakes, the Mediterranean, the coast of Africa—all require ships from us, not for ambition, but for police. And when we want men we have the competition of the greatest commercial marine in the world to contend against. Paying off a French fleet is unfurnishing a house—paying off a British one is pulling the house down. His men go away till they are wanted, and ours till we can get them again—a mere matter of chance and opportunity. Disarming in the two cases means totally different things. It is as if one combatant put his sword on the shelf, and the other threw it out of the window. Till this fundamental truth is allowed for and recognised by the French we fear that there is little hope of a really sound understanding between us.

In placing the question fairly before the French Emperor we must insist on maintaining a sufficient force to constitute a school of seamen. Of course we must make reductions corresponding to his in a general way, as, for instance, in building new ships, or in the number to be brought forward for commission. But, if we were to put down our Channel squadron as it stands now, we should be committing a suicidal act. We should be breaking faith with our seamen, and making the manning of the navy impossible for the future. The present Channel squadron has been brought forward, in many respects, under new auspices. It is an attempt to resolve the great problem of the manning of the navy in general, a practical experiment, in fact, towards that. It began with a bounty, and is being organised with an eye to the popularity of the service among the men. Break up, and you break up not a fleet only but a system, and a system which ought to help us in getting seamen for future fleets. Napoleon has no right after all his own naval activity of late years to demand such a sacrifice from us. If he does, it will look as though he wished to reap the fruit of that activity, doubly, to get not only what it has done for himself, but the extra gain of cutting us short, in a reform of vital importance. The country will listen to nothing like this. It will make a fair bargain. It will agree to accommodate its naval power towards that of France, allowing for the differences of position between the countries and the services. But this is all. It will not, in the vague hope of a millennium, act entirely as if the millennium had already arrived. If Napoleon is calculating on this he deserves to be disappointed. But we must not distrust him, absolutely, on mere presumption. He must be heard with respect, and negotiated with, courteously; and we heartily hope the result may prove favourable to the friendship of the two nations.

THE REV. DR. MANNING.

The Rev. Henry Edward Manning, D.D., formerly Archdeacon of Chichester in the Established Church, and now the Roman Catholic "Provost of Westminster," is known to many of our readers as having been one of the most active leaders of the Anglo-Catholic, or Tractarian, movement which originated in Oxford in 1833. If Dr. Newman led the intellects of his hearers, and Dr. Pusey swayed youthful students in theology by his deep acquaintance with the decrees of ancient councils and the tenets of the early Fathers, it was Archdeacon Manning who carried away the affections of both young and old. And, accordingly, it may be doubted whether the secession of even Dr. Newman led to such extensive consequences in the way of perverts as did that of the ex-Archdeacon of Chichester.

Dr. Manning is the youngest of the four sons of the late William Manning, Esq., of Coombe Bank, near Sevenoaks, Kent, merchant, many years M.P. for Lymington, and Governor of the Bank of England. He was born in or about the year 1809, and educated at Harrow, and at Balliol College, Oxford, where he obtained the highest classical honours. Soon afterwards he was elected to a Fellowship at Merton College, which, however, he vacated by his marriage with the third daughter of the late Rev. John Sargent, Rector of Lavington and Graftham, two pretty rural villages near Petworth, Sussex. In 1833, on the sudden death of his father-in-law, he succeeded to the rectory of Lavington with Graftham, and in the autumn of 1840 was appointed Archdeacon of Chichester; this appointment excited some surprise at the time, inasmuch as the Bishop from whose hands he received it was of religious opinions notoriously at variance with his own. Whilst holding the rectory of Lavington he published a treatise on "The Unity of the Church," and another on "The Rule of Faith," besides several sermons, charges, and pamphlets, all bearing more or less directly upon the theological questions of the day.

The great Gorham case of 1850 is understood to have been the immediate cause of Archdeacon Manning's secession from the English Church. His last public act as a member of that Church was his appearance on the platform at a monster meeting held in July of that year to protest against the decision of the Privy Council in the case. This he followed up shortly afterwards by a formal protest, which he drew up in concert with the late Archdeacon Wilberforce, of Yorkshire, and the late Dr. Mill, of Cambridge, and which he made public in the autumn of the same year. About the same time he abandoned his preferments, and, after spending the winter of 1850-51 in retirement, was received into the Roman Catholic communion about Easter in the latter year, by the Rev. Mr. Brownbill, at Farm-street Chapel, near Berkeley-square. Although he was admitted to the Roman Catholic priesthood at an unusually early period after his reception, he again withdrew from public observation, and resided for two or three years his studies in the Collegio Pio at Rome, on leaving which he received, unsought, the cap of Doctor of Divinity from Pope Pius. After his return he still undertook no public charge, beyond occupying a confessional in the Church of the Jesuits in Farm-street, and frequent occasional preaching, until his appointment to the charge of a new mission, served by the members of the Congregation of St. Charles, in the poorest part of Westminster; and, subsequently, to that of the Church of St. Helen, now called also "St. Mary of the Angels," at Bayswater. He again visited Rome in the winter of 1856-57, and on his return when he nominated by the Pope to the Provostship of Westminster.

Within a few years after his marriage Dr. Manning was left a widower, without children. Had this not been the case, the law of celibacy would not have allowed him to become a clergyman of the Roman Catholic communion.

The sketch from which our Illustration was taken was made at Rome lately, where Dr. Manning frequently preached before a congregation of English Catholic residents and visitors. Dr. Manning is tall, and prepossessing in appearance. His head is fine and full proportioned, and nearly bald. His style is plain, simple, and homely; but with all his homeliness he frequently rises into a higher tone, and displays eloquence of no mean order.

JOHN WARDLE, a miner of West Bromwich, who claims to be of the Royal family through his mother and the Duke of York, was recently imprisoned for sending extortions and threatening letters to the Queen. He has again been clapped into prison for declaring that he would "cook her goose."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor left Paris on the 7th for the camp at Chalons; but soon after left it suddenly for Plombières. Sharp fights have been executed at the camp. They were intended to represent an episode of the battle of Solferino. Forty thousand men were engaged in these manoeuvres.

The rumour of an approaching introduction of an extensive free-trade measure in France occupies public opinion in Paris. It is said that the Emperor's resolution has been taken in consequence of an exposition on the state of public opinion in England which Count Persigny made in the Council of State on the occasion of his late visit to Paris.

SPAIN.

The Madrid journals state that the greatest activity continues to be displayed in the construction of fortifications. To this the *Indépendance*, a French journal, adds:—"The Government has had the happy idea of constructing fortifications in presence of the battlements of Gibraltar, and they are being executed with an energy which cannot be too highly praised."

ITALY.

The solemn entry of King Victor Emmanuel into Milan took place on Sunday. He was accompanied by his Ministers and the members of the Sardinian Chamber. The Milanese are said to have shown great enthusiasm on the occasion. The King has promised to reside alternately in Turin and Milan, the latter to be his winter residence.

The agitated state of Savoy continues. There seem to be three parties in the province—one favourable to annexation to France, the second favourable to annexation to Switzerland, and the third faithful to Victor Emmanuel's government.

The election of Sardinian deputies, in consequence of the change of Ministry, have been nearly all Ministerial. M. Ratazzi has been re-elected at Alessandria, and General Garibaldi has been nominated at Stradella. There is a rumour that Ratazzi proposes to have an army of 100,000 men before the present year is over. "This will be the force of Sardinia in time of peace."

The Envoy Extraordinary of Switzerland at the Court of Naples has presented to the Neapolitan Government certain demands—namely, that the Swiss standards be given up, the uniform and the number of the foreign legions be altered, and that they are no longer to be called Swiss.

Antonelli goes to the wall, and the Code Napoleon has, we are positively told, been accepted at the Vatican, with the single exception of its legislation on marriage.

PRUSSIA.

Prussia is about to send some vessels of war to Japan, to open communications with that country.

A correspondent of the *Times* says:—"The King's mind has been clearer during the last few weeks, and he has been able to take a greater interest in the persons and things near him. But, in proportion as the intellect has become more active, the vital forces, as frequently happens in the class of diseases he is labouring under, have sensibly diminished." Later news—to August 10—is to this effect:—"The symptoms of congestion of blood to the head of his Majesty the King have increased since last night, and, according to the latest bulletin, have given rise to the most serious apprehensions."

AUSTRIA.

It is thought that the Emperor's birthday, the 18th inst., will witness the publication of the late reforms promised by the Imperial manifesto.

A Vienna letter in the *Journal de Francfort* says:—"A special commission will assemble on the 15th, by order of the Emperor, to decide on the bases of a statute which tends to nothing less than a complete reorganisation of the army both as to tactics and administration."

Reports are again current of the retirement of Baron Bach.

THE GERMAN CONFEDERATION.

The movement for German unity under Prussian supremacy goes on constantly spreading. In the little state of Meiningen a number of citizens have addressed a petition in this sense to their own Sovereign. His reply was, that he could see no good in the establishment of new federal ties from which Austria would be excluded. This, probably, will be the opinion of the great majority of the German Princes.

In Tuesday's sitting of the Bavarian Chamber of Deputies the proposal of twenty-seven members for federal reform, by creating a central power and a national representation in Germany, was referred to a committee.

RUSSIA.

The official *Gazette of the Senate* contains the text, in the Russian language, of the treaty between Russia and China. It resolves itself into three principal parts. It provides for the extension of Russian commerce in China, both by sea and land; for the protection of Russian subjects in that country from Chinese laws and procedure; and for the recognition of the Russian religious missionaries, together with an acknowledgment on the part of the Chinese Emperor of the beneficial influence of Christianity, which reads rather like a gratuitous capitulation from the chief of a heathen and singularly intolerant State.

It will be recollect that the Russian Government, before the outbreak of the war, contracted a loan of twelve millions sterling, bearing three per cent interest. The actual issue of the loan was, however, stopped by the Imperial Government in consideration of the circumstances of the time. The loan is now, however, to be brought on, and may make its appearance on the European money marts in a fortnight. The old price will not be adhered to: the new one is, however, not yet stated.

Baron Haber, manager of the Bank of Darmstadt, M. Hanseman, Director of the Discount Bank at Berlin, and Baron Mulkens, have received the concession for establishing, at St. Petersburg a general society for banking and trading (*Société Générale de Banque et de Commerce*). The capital of the company to be 200,000,000f., in 400,000 shares of 500f. each. The statutes of the company have been confirmed by the Emperor.

The construction of a railway of the length of 700 versts between Moscow and Saratow (on the Volga) has been authorised.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

News from Servia is again somewhat threatening. The Commander of Belgrade, which is a Turkish fortress, has thrown a rampart round the town, thus attaching it strategically to the fort. The Pacha has also ceded to an Austrian company a plot of ground within the fortress for the purpose of organising a system of protection against smuggling into Servia. It is feared that serious complications may arise. The population is in an excited state.

AMERICA.

There is a rumour that the Southern representatives intend to introduce a measure to the notice of Congress which would repeal the enactments that refer to the African slave trade.

The American papers have a dreadful story of the burning of a negro alive for ill-using a young white girl. The excitement created by Mr. Sickles has been appropriated by a Mr. Robert C. Macdonald, a cotton-merchant, who, being abandoned by a woman, herself of abandoned character, scoured the Union after her in a delirium of love and liquor. Finding her at last in a saloon in New York, he followed her into the street, and shot her through the head.

Much excitement had been occasioned at Panama and on the Isthmus generally by the accidental opening of some of the Indian graves in the Chiriqui district, and the discovery therein of large quantities of golden images, gods, &c. As there are supposed to be many thousands of these graves equally wealthy, many hundreds of persons are gone thither.

INDIA.

The demands of the European troops were yielded by the Government not too soon, for the dissatisfied soldiers, especially those in Berhampore, were actually going to the extremity of choosing officers among themselves. This regiment was about 600 strong, and had expressed its opinion in the matter of the transfer with offensive clearness. It continued, however, to do duty until the arrival of some deserters from Ailahabad, who taunted the men with doing unnecessary duty. Nearly 500 of the men hereupon refused to do any duty whatever, upon which the commanding officer, Major Maitland, ordered the officers to withdraw. This step exasperated the men, as it implied a danger of assassination, and they elected officers of their own, one Marshall being chosen colonel, and assisted by a major, two captains, and four sergeants. Major Maitland now withdrew all servants, punkah coolies, run, and, in fact, everything except rations, which it was impossible to stop without an explosion. Fortunately for all parties, Marshall turned out a man of some capacity and resolution. He threatened to flog the first man caught looting, and carried his menace into execution. Another man, guilty of disrespect, received fifty lashes, and the regiment was brought into a state of discipline to which it was entirely unaccustomed. The men played cricket under their officers' noses, but otherwise remained quiet enough, opening, however, a correspondence with the 6th at Hazareebah. At last, on the 26th of June, Colonel Kenneth Mackenzie, who only went up to protect Moorshedabad, arrived with 1000 men of her Majesty's 99th and the Buffs, and four guns. He placed his men and offered the mutineers twenty-four hours to consider themselves. If at the expiration of that time they returned to duty, a court of inquiry would be held into their grievances; if not he should employ force. The men, thirty-nine excepted, submitted, and the recusants were arrested. The discharge will apparently be nearly universal. Of fifty recruits at Barrackpore, all demanded it except two. All the men in the arsenal took it at once, and even the Governor-General's band declared their resolution to resign. The 5th, it is known, will go en masse, and letters begin to come in speaking of discharges by the hundred. The men calculate to come in speaking of discharges by the hundred. The men calculate to come in speaking of discharges by the hundred. The men calculate to come in speaking of discharges by the hundred.

Letters from commercial correspondents express fears that the example of the mutiny of the European soldiers formerly in the Company's service would spread fresh agitation among the natives. It is asserted that nearly half of the mutinied soldiers would ask for their discharge. It is also reported that the mutiny is not yet quite quelled at Berhampore. 400 European soldiers, formerly in the Company's service, are said to have had an encounter with soldiers of the Queen at Cawnpore. A detachment of the Queen's troops, under the command of Sir John Inglis, is reported to have left to punish the mutineers.

The rebels in Nepal have again shown themselves on the Oude and Goruckpore frontiers, driven down by starvation; seventy of them were killed by detachments under Major Vaughan and Captain Cleveland.

AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

THE CONFERENCE.

The Zurich Conference held its first formal sitting on Monday, and the presence of the Sardinian Plenipotentiary at it dispenses effectively of all rumours to the contrary. As for what passes at these Conferences, an early revelation is hardly to be expected. The Plenipotentiaries are:—For France, Baron de Bourqueney and the Marquis de Bonneville; for Austria, Count de Colleredo and Baron de Meyenberg; for Sardinia, the Chevalier Desambrois.

According to the *Ost Deutsche Post*,

Few difficulties will be encountered in revising the treaty of Zurich. It is confidently expected that the whole matter will be settled in four or five sittings, and that the ratifications will be exchanged before the middle of this month; so that, on the 15th of August—the day on which the Emperor makes his entry into Paris at the head of his army—the concluded treaty will be published in the *Moniteur*. It is stated that the Constitution of the new Italian Confederation will be sketched out in this instrument. The document will then, after Sardinia shall have given her adhesion to it in an appendix, be sent to the great Powers. *A Congress will certainly not take place*; but the representatives of the great Powers at Paris will hold a Conference with the Plenipotentiaries of the Italian States in order to put the treaty of peace into a practical form. The question of the Duchies will, however, be definitely settled at Zurich.

But the *Invalides Russes* publishes an article insisting that a Congress shall assemble for the settlement of the Italian question.

THE DUCHIES.

The Italian Duchies still offer a threatening difficulty to the settlement of the "Italian question," according to *l'Idée Napoléonienne*. M. de Reiset, the Envoy sent to the King of Sardinia by the Emperor Napoleon to conclude arrangements with respect to the Duchies, appears to have obtained only partial success. The *Indépendance* says:—

In the interview which he had on his first arrival with General Dabormida, the President of the Ministerial Council, the French diplomatist gave, it appears, an assurance on the part of the Imperial Government that force of arms would not be used to carry into effect those articles in the treaty of Villafranca which relate to the re-establishment of authority in the Italian Duchies and the Romagna; but stated at the same time the wish of that Government that such re-establishment might take place with the least possible delay. In order to bring about this result, M. de Reiset requires that Sardinia shall withdraw all her Commissioners, those of Parma not even excepted; that she shall cease to exercise any influence over the inhabitants of those Duchies; and, finally, that she shall assist, with her concurrence, the work of restoring the Italian Princes.

The Government of Victor Emmanuel has hitherto complied with the first of these demands; it has even done the same with the second; but to the third it has been found impossible to induce Victor Emmanuel to consent. The King expressed himself on this subject with some degree of vivacity even in the interview, thoroughly harmonious in other respects, which he had with M. de Reiset.

When the Sardinian Commissioners at Bologna and Florence, obeying the orders of their King, vacated their posts, they handed over the executive power to the Provisional Governments established there. The Commissioner of Modena, however, accepted the Dictatorship which the Municipality of Modena elected him to, independently of his appointment by the King, which latter appointment he resigned. A similar evasion of the preliminary stipulations between France and Sardinia has taken place at Parma. The Royal Commissioner has left, it is true, but his secretary has remained, and is charged with sovereign power in the name of the people. This tends to create the suspicion that the annexation of Parma and Modena is a scheme to which Sardinia still adheres. Rumour suggests that in one case the difficulty may be met by marrying the Duchess of Parma to the Prince de Carignan, Victor Emmanuel's cousin.

The alliance between Tuscany, Modena, and the Legations has extended to Parma; and the General of the Tuscan army, Ulloa, having again left for Paris, the command of the joint forces of Central Italy has been offered to Garibaldi, who, it is said, has announced his intention to accept it.

An official message, dated Florence, the 9th, states that the elections were concluded with perfect order, and a large number of voters attended to give their suffrages. The elected belong to all classes of the country. The Tuscan Government has decreed that Fort Belvedere, or St. George, which overlooks the city, shall be dismantled.

Meanwhile Piacenza has just been occupied by 10,000 Frenchmen; Count Reiset pursues his mission through the Duchies, giving everywhere the counsel which the Persians gave to the Athenians—to take Hippias back; and 5000 French soldiers are expected immediately at Parma to work out the ceremony of an independent popular election of a Sovereign by universal suffrage. If the Duchess of Parma could really be restored to her dominions by the choice of her people, and could reign as an independent Italian Sovereign, we believe that Europe would very generally rejoice, for her rule has been mild and her conduct been wise. But unless this can be accomplished without the aid of French bayonets it were better even for the Princess and her sons that she should await a more favourable opportunity; for French bayonets will, we fear, but too certainly draw forth Italian daggers.

An intrigue appears to be on foot for bringing forward Prince Napoleon as a candidate for Tuscany. A letter circulated by Government journals in France says that "everybody in Florence speaks of Prince Napoleon as their future Sovereign, and that people chalk on the walls 'Vive Napoleon (Jerome), King of Etruria.'

AUSTRIA AND PRUSSIA.

The *Austrian Gazette* contains the following article:—
The documents which exhibit the policy followed by Prussia in the Italian war are now so numerous that it is possible to form a judgment on the subject. Austria undertook the war for the maintenance of European public right. Prussia having refused her assistance, Austria applied to her other German confederates; they were inclined to assist her, but Prussia prevented them. Austria was averse to Prussian mediation, but attempts were made to impose on us what we did not desire, and had no need of. The part of a mediator is so convenient and so easy that anybody can undertake it on any occasion. No Power would refuse the Emperor of Morocco or the Emperor of China a service of that kind. But, we are told, the Prussian mediation was very favourable to us. Supposing it to be so, what gratitude do owe for it? Of what use would it have been? Will any one relinquish the fruits of victory at the request of a third party, however politely made? A friendly application is met by a friendly refusal, and the mediator has only to resume his work of mediation. If Prussia had said or proved that in a given case she would defend the possessions of Austria in Italy, and with rapidity and energy enough to lead to the hope of a good result, the case would be different. But, far from that, at the very moment when the Austrian and the allied armies were face to face, on the Mincio and the Adige, we find a Prussian note addressed to her confederates and ours, in which it is shown that there is no *cassis belli* for Germany, and that note is couched in a tone which proves that, in spite of the Federal Constitution, Prussia would not allow that the other States should think or act differently from her. Neither Prince Gortschakoff nor Lord John Russell has gone so far. The Prussian army mobilised was only a means of exercising moral pressure on Hanover, Saxony, Bavaria, and Wurtemberg, and we do not make a political conjecture in saying that there was danger—not that Prussia would enter French territory—but that she would occupy the territory of such of her German confederates as had put themselves decidedly on the side of Austria. We will not employ any reasoning on these facts; but we will request the German people to tell us if, supposing the eastern provinces of Prussia and Posen to be menaced, if a foreign enemy entered Königsberg, would Austria be doing her duty by setting herself up as a mediatrix, and preventing the other German States from going to the succour of Prussia? Would she be exempt from blame if, a foreign flag floating over Dantzig and Marienburg, she were humbly to beg the victorious enemy to cede those provinces to some junior branch of the Prussian Royal family?

ENGLISH DESIGNS ON BELGIUM.

GRANIER DE CASSAGNAC, whose pen is moved by the Imperial hand, comes out in the *Constitutionnel* with a violent tirade against the fortification of Antwerp. The article is intended to propagate the notion that the King of the Belgians, in proposing to his Parliament a vote for strengthening the defences of his great commercial port on the Scheldt, is a mere tool in the hands of England, who, looking forward to a war with France, wishes to provide herself with an entrenched camp in Belgium. The project of fortifying Antwerp, he says, is brought on the tapis every year on the return of King Leopold from England, and always causes surprise in the minds of sensible men. Why Belgium, declared a neutral Power by the treaties which constituted her, should consent to incur a considerable expense for works of protection of no utility to herself, has always been an enigma, the writer declares, to persons who only regard the surface of things; but the real motive for that course the article declares to be the following:

At the end of July, 1809, between the battle of Wagram and the peace of Vienna, whilst the Emperor Napoleon I. was at the farthest part of Moravia, the English threw 40,000 men, supported by more than 300 vessels of war, into the Isle of Walcheren, at the mouth of the Scheldt. Our readers know that the expedition was not successful. Kept in check a long time by the little garrison of Flushing, intimidated by the preparations of King Louis of Holland, of Marshal Bernadotte, and of Admiral Micassey, and, above all, vanquished by fever, the English left the Scheldt on the 5th of September, after an attempt which was without profit and without glory, and which in thirty-five days had cost them nearly 20,000 soldiers. It would seem that, foreseeing complications on the Continent, and enlightened by the lamentable attempt of 1809, the English now desire to secure to themselves both chances of success. It is certain, in fact, that, in case of a new disembarkation, the island of Walcheren could not balance the advantage which the possession of Antwerp, with its citadel and a large entrenched camp, would offer. Thus to consider the Channel as a river, and to make Antwerp a formidable *île-dé-pont*, which would enable English troops to disembark and to establish themselves when they please on the Continent, that is a reason which, in default of others, logically explains the design which Belgium appears to entertain of constructing costly fortifications against an imaginary enemy, against attacks which common sense renders improbable, and treaties impossible. Either the project of fortifying Antwerp has that signification or it has none at all. Truth to speak, this project, calmly examined, does not seem to us to be either for the interest of England or that of Belgium. No doubt the English people will ever take care to make itself safe at home; but we do not believe it will lend itself to any system of intrigue or intermeddling in Continental matters. On the other hand, the situation of Belgium is most simple. Her neutrality secures her from all European complications. She cannot have any enemies, and, therefore, what can she want with fortresses? To enter upon the course proposed would be to create for herself gratuitous perils, for she would essentially cease to be neutral on the day when she performed the functions of an English province. As regards France, she may witness the projects we speak of without alarm, but not without being afflicted. She has furnished sufficient assurances of her pacific sentiments, and ample proofs enough of her moderation, not to give legitimate umbrage to any one. It is, therefore, to be regretted that measures of that kind appear to denote hostile ideas in neighbouring countries with which France wishes to continue on friendly relations.

The *Presse* says, in allusion to this article, "We shall shortly have to notice the effect which this article cannot fail to produce in England and Belgium."

REVIEW OF THE RUSSIAN FLEET.

THERE are few subjects more interesting to the English public than the naval power and strength of Russia. The interest is increased by the mystery in which the question is shrouded, and by the exaggerations which that mystery has induced. One party at home—forgetting that "security is mortal's chiefest enemy"—judge of the Russian fleet by its performances, or rather non-performances, during the late war. They talk of ships skulking behind the ramparts of Cronstadt or sunk in the harbour of Sebastopol. They can imagine no danger from a navy which was unable to protect its own coasts from ravages and insults, and they fancy that what has been in the past must be in the future.

On the other hand, the alarmists rush into the opposite extreme. They see the Russian fleet issuing from Cronstadt, "forty sail of the line," according to an estimate lately made by an intelligent English Post Captain. These are to be united to the French Channel squadron in irresistible numbers: the funds fall, a panic seizes the City, and the sea no longer remains the "water-walled bulwark of Great Britain."

The truth lies between the extremes. The Russian fleet is neither what the hopes of the one nor the fears of the other party have created. They see the Russian fleet issuing from Cronstadt, "forty sail of the line," according to an estimate lately made by an intelligent English Post Captain. These are to be united to the French Channel squadron in irresistible numbers: the funds fall, a panic seizes the City, and the sea no longer remains the "water-walled bulwark of Great Britain."

England and America. During the war but one screw-frigate, the *Palkane*, remained motionless behind the batteries of Cronstadt, hopelessly regarding the magnificent steam fleet of Great Britain. On Saturday, the 23rd ult., the Emperor, accompanied by the Grand Duke Constantine, Grand Admiral, reviewed a fleet of twenty-one vessels, all propelled by steam, and the greater part screws.

The fleet was formed in two lines, stretching in a south-easterly direction from the new fort now in course of construction as far as the Custom House.

The following is a list of the ships:—

LINE OF BATTLE.	
Constantin	Orël
Viborg	Césarvitch
Prokhor	Vola.
Sinope	
FRIGATES, ETC.	
Generale-Amiral	Kamtschatka
Ilya Mouronet	Olaf
Svetlana	Russoïnik
Khrabrii	Naozlinik
Grosiachitchi	Petersburg
Calevala	Fontanka
Posadnik	Standarte (T. yacht).

In addition to these was a numerous flotilla of gun-boats, nearly the whole of which are screws. In the inner harbour lay the old sailing-vessels, now dismasted hulks, but which had hoisted the Russian flag on a pole at the stern in honour of the occasion. The day was lovely, a gentle breeze just ruffling the surface of the water.

The fleet presented a most imposing spectacle as it lay motionless in the harbour; and, though there was nothing in its aspect to inspire terror to an Englishman who had seen the review at Spithead, still there was quite enough to present ample food for reflection. The whole of these ships had been built since the war, and they were but the advanced guard, so to speak, of the main body which is to succeed them. Many, such as the *Sinope*, *Constantin*, *Generale-Amiral*, and *Ilya Mouronet*, are admirably constructed, and the whole of them are on good models.

Precisely at half-past twelve the Emperor and the Grand Duke Constantine, accompanied by a numerous suite, embarked on board the Imperial yacht *Alexandrine*, moored off Peterhof, and started for Cronstadt. Two other steamers conveyed the Imperial family and the dignitaries of the Court. The Imperial cortège slowly approached the fleet, and, as it hove in sight, the yards were manned in very fair style. The yacht then steamed down the lines, and, on nearing each ship successively, the Emperor, in a loud tone of voice, saluted the crews, to which they replied with a tremendous hurrah. Having passed along both lines, the Imperial yacht took up a central position, and hoisted a signal, by which his Imperial Majesty thanked the officers and crews for the excellent appearance presented by the fleet. The Imperial standard was then run up on board the yacht. This was replied to by a salute from the flag-ship, followed by one from the whole squadron. The forts replied to the vessels, and, when the smoke cleared away, the fleet reappeared gaily dressed with flags, each ship bearing the Imperial standard at the main. The Emperor then took boat, and minutely inspected the *Constantin* and the *Sinope*, after which he returned to the yacht. He was dressed in full naval uniform, as was the Grand Duke Constantine. At half-past three they returned to Peterhof.

Thus finished the first review of the Russian steam fleet. It will be observed that no manoeuvres were attempted, and in this a wise discretion was shown. There is no doubt that the crews are raw, and not by any means equal to those composed of "cabins, pickpockets, and tailors" over whose presence in the English navy Sir Charles Napier so pitifully laments. What the Emperor wished to see was the "great fact" of a steam navy at Cronstadt; and he saw it. In process of time the crews will be disciplined, and a respectable squadron will be kept for that purpose in the Mediterranean. As yet Russia could afford but a very sorry contingent in case of a naval war; but if, during the next twenty years, she makes such progress as she has acquired since the peace, she will be almost as formidable with her naval as she has long been with her military power. Russia is at present busily engaged in industrial enterprises, and particularly in the construction of railways. Twenty thousand men are at work between St. Petersburg and Warsaw; on the southern lines considerable progress has been made; and the day is not far distant when there will be railway communication between Moscow and St. Petersburg and the Baltic provinces on the north, Warsaw on the west, and Odessa and the Crimea on the south. Russia will then be immensely strengthened, whether for offensive or defensive purposes.

MAZZINI ON THE PROSPECTS OF EUROPE.

M. MAZZINI comes out with a manifesto on the present situation of European politics. The key note of the whole paper is thus struck:—

As the expedition of Rome was the prelude to the French coup-d'état, the Crimean war and the Italian war mark two steps towards the European coup-d'état. The next step will be the dismemberment of Turkey and war against England, isolated in Europe.

England, he states, should have disconcerted the expedition to Rome, and, by declining the French alliance, should have shown disapproval of the coup-d'état. The Crimean war, with its premature ending, and the Italian war, similarly concluded, were but preludes to the railway communication between Moscow and St. Petersburg and the Baltic provinces on the north, Warsaw on the west, and Odessa and the Crimea on the south. Russia will then be immensely strengthened, whether for offensive or defensive purposes.

The peace of Villafranca is the inauguration of a new holy alliance between the three Powers which now represent despotism in Europe—Imperial France, Russia, and Austria. The aim of the alliance—they are phrases uttered at Plombières and at Stuttgart—is to imperialise Europe, making themselves master, in order to falsify it, of the national idea, and substituting the territorial question to the question of liberty. The means—and this will be the next step to the Lombard war—are the partition between the three members of the alliance of the Mahomedan possessions in Europe and Africa, and war with England.

If Austria did not accept the proposals of Villafranca, the plan was to have been executed in a modified manner between the Czar and the Emperor. Hungary, emancipated from Austria, would fall to Constantine; the Mediterranean, converted into a French lake, to the Emperor. Russia was to be directly or indirectly mistress of the north and of the east of Europe; Imperial France of the west and of the south. At present the agreement of the three changes the idea of partition, and limits, as I said, the next step to the dismemberment of Oriental Europe and to the war with England and Prussia.

I declare, not from conjecture more or less probable, but from certain knowledge of the fact, the existence of this plan. I declare that it was discussed at Plombières. I declare that the bases of agreement between the Emperor and the Czar concerning the East were carried back by La Rouëre to Paris in his last mission, shortly before the Sardo-Lombard war. Those live in Europe who know the truth of what I say, and ought to substantiate it; but they will not, nor is it for me to betray those who choose to be silent.

The writer denounces neutrality for a great State as "the abdication, the suicide, of that State." The only way to combat Imperialism is the principle of nationality.

THE ELECTION COMMITTEES.—The Huddersfield Election Committee have decided that Mr. E. A. Leathem was duly elected member for that borough. At the same time, the Committee mention the names of individuals who were bribed to vote for Mr. Leathem, but they acquit the hon. member of having any knowledge of such transactions. The Preston Committee have decided that Mr. Grenfell had been duly elected. Dr. Michell, the member for Bodmin, about whom so much has been said, has obtained the Chiltern Hundreds, and a new writ has been moved for to supply the vacancy. The Beverley Election Committee have decided that Mr. R. Walters was not duly elected for that borough, having been guilty of bribery by his agents; but that Mr. H. Edwards had been duly elected as the second member. The Committee recommend the prosecution of Daniel Boyes and Robert Taylor, who had been proved guilty of bribery. Further, the Committee report that a corrupt system prevails in the borough of Beverley in the way of employing voters, and they advise that a new writ in room of Mr. Walters should not issue until the evidence is published and laid before the House. Admiral Seymour (Liberal) has been returned for Devonport, vacant by the Indian appointment of Mr. Wilson.

SCOTLAND.

THE HIGHLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Success attended the great annual show of the Highland Agricultural Society at Edinburgh last week. The weather was not propitious, but the attendance of visitors was large; the Prince of Wales being one. The beasts were excellent in form and substance; the horses were above the average; the sheep good; but in this class the Duke of Richmond's Sussex stock bore off the bell. At the dinner on Wednesday evening the Duke of Atholl, wearing the Highland garb, presided; and in his after-dinner speech he described the meeting as "first-rate."

THE PROVINCES.

THE ATTACK ON MR. STUART WORTLEY.—Mr. Wortley writes that "the injury attempted upon me on Monday night was more trivial than appears to have been supposed. It is quite true that something was thrown from the crowd with sufficient force to penetrate my hat and cut through the skin to the bone; but the blow was not a heavy one, and produced no serious effect; and I think it very probable that it was nothing but a sharp-edged stone picked up from the street. I am far from identifying the whole crowd, however hostile, with this cowardly blow from behind."

Whether it was some thoughtless boy, such as the greater part of the crowd consisted of, or a grown man, I equally forgive him; but if it was the latter I pity

as his ignorance—alike of the knowledge of an Englishman to express his political hostility by any fair means, and of what is due to an adversary who would not willingly injure him or any of his fellows."

FATAL FOLLY.—One Taylor, a publican at Hull, had occasion to tap a puncheon of rum. For this purpose he first used a ginlet; but the hole made by this instrument not being large enough he attempted to enlarge it with a red-hot poker! Of course the shop was speedily in flames, and its contents were entirely destroyed. Among the ruins was found the body of a child about four years old; and three more deaths are reported to have occurred since among the injured.

PRESENTATION TO THE COUNTESS OF SHAFESBURY.—On Saturday evening the factory operatives of the north of England presented to the Countess of Shafesbury a marble bust of her husband, and a testimonial engrossed on vellum in memory of his Lordship's great services on behalf of their order. The presentation took place in the large room of the Free-trade Hall, Manchester, upwards of 4000 operatives, men and women, being present. Mr. Samuel Jones, a factory operative, presided. Mr. Stanley read the address. Her Ladyship, in a clear and distinct voice, returned thanks in the following words:—"My good friends,—It will not require many words from me to express the deep and heartfelt gratitude with which I have received this testimonial of your respect and affection. I prize it highly as coming from a large body of my countrymen whose character for intelligence and morality qualifies them to estimate at their true value any efforts made for the welfare of the community. You will believe me, I am sure, that having watched the progress of your exertions with lively interest, I warmly rejoice in your success, and it is my fervent prayer to God that it may be blessed through many generations to you and your children."

MURDER AT DURSLEY.—On Sunday night a blacksmith of Dursley, named Rutter, was murdered by his wife when asleep in his bed. The parties have not lived happily with each other, and on Sunday were both away from home drinking nearly the whole day; the woman in one room of the house, and her husband in another. When Rutter when home he was followed by his wife, who cut his throat while he was asleep. She then deliberately wiped the razor and placed it under the pillow where the dead man's head was lying. She has been committed for trial.

BURGLARY AT WORTLEY HALL.—Lord Wharncliffe is entertaining a large shooting party at Wortley Hall. Among the company is Major Frazer, who retired to rest early on the morning of the 3rd, leaving his bedroom window open to admit air. He found on awaking that his room (which is on the ground floor) had been entered, and that a £30 Bank of England note, a dressing-gown, and the wearing apparel which he had thrown off on retiring to rest had been stolen; a case of jewels, some silver candlesticks, and a double-barrelled gun, which were in the room, being left untouched. It is believed that the robbery was effected by some one well acquainted with the premises, but that it was not committed by an adept is inferred from the fact of its not being more extensive. The Major's room was not locked, and the thief might have found access to other parts of the house.

EXTRAORDINARY RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—The North-Eastern line, near Pickering, is carried across an extensive swamp, on piles. As the train from Whitby was passing the place on Saturday the engine ran off the line and plunged overhead into the bog, pulling the train after it. The train was a very heavy one, and the scene which ensued may be imagined. The engine-driver and stoker were both buried in the bog along with the engine, but were extricated by the passengers: they were both injured, but not seriously. None of the passengers were much hurt.

THREE MEN EXECUTED FOR MURDER.—Pickett and Carey, the murderers of Mr. Stevenson, of Sibsey, were executed at Lincoln, on Friday week, in the presence of about 25,000 persons. They spent a restless night previous to their execution. Pickett struggled for about two minutes, but Carey scarcely moved. They made written confessions. Another execution took place next day, that of the man Riley, who had been found guilty of the murder of his wife at Hull. He was hung at York in the presence of 7000 or 8000 spectators. In the case of Worsey, found guilty of murdering his wife at the Staffordshire Assizes, we learn that sentence has been commuted. He was recommended to mercy by the jury who tried him.

HUMOUR IN THE PULPIT.—Mr. Sourgeon preached two sermons at Norwich last week in aid of his new "Tabernacle Fund." He addressed about 2500 persons in the afternoon in St. Andrew's Hall, and an immense concourse—5000 or 6000—in Chapel-field in the evening. The collection made among the 2500 realised about £28, and Mr. Sourgeon expressed to his evening audience his disappointment at so inadequate a result. The response was, however, still smaller, only £23 being raised. We are as much surprised as the rev. gentleman himself, for he made some capital hits; "laughter" and "much laughter" is reported to have interrupted his sermons frequently. "Content," he said, "made our cup run over, while discontent knocked the bottom out." Christian men sometimes fell terribly foul of each other, like the two English ships which broadsided each other for hours in a mist without knowing that the British flag was flying at their mastheads. . . . The lazy man was one of the biggest sinners on earth. If he did nothing else, he broke one of God's greatest commandments. There was a very strict Sabatarian gardener who was very hard upon his master about his observance of the Sabbath. His master said to him, "Why? don't work on a Sunday?" "No," quoth the master, "nor on any other day. Just repeat the commandment." The gardener obeyed, and, when he came to "six days shalt thou labour and do all that thou hast to do," his master said, "There, stop there; that is as much a part of the commandment as that 'the seventh day is the Sabbath.' . . . The stickling for sectarian distinctions was as absurd as if a hungry man about to eat some bread were told by a Churchman, "No bread like the tin loaf;" or by an Independent, "No bread like the cottage loaf;" or by a Methodist, "You must eat twits." The hungry man would say, "Give me some bread, and I will settle the shape afterwards."

COLLISIONS AT SEA.—On Monday morning, while the schooner Robert Garden, of Dover, was lying in the Channel, about a mile and a half to the eastward of Dover harbour, she was run down by an Irish trading steamer belonging to Waterford. The schooner was from the north, coal-laden, and was worth, with her cargo, probably £2000; but, over and above the money loss, a serious loss of life is involved. The schooner sank almost immediately after the collision, carrying with her four poor sailors to a watery grave. These were an overseer pilot, a seaman, and two lads, one the son of the captain, and the other the son of the mate. Early on Sunday morning a dense mist came over the North Foreland, when a collier ran into the Dublin steam-packet Ondine, and was completely cut in two. The crew of the steamer succeeded in saving five of the collier's crew: four others were drowned.

DISGRACEFUL SCENE IN A CHURCH.—For some time past a feeling of dissatisfaction has existed among the parishioners of St. George's-in-the-East against their Rector, Mr. King, whom they accuse of Tractarian practices. For several Sundays past many persons hissed and hooted him and his Curate both going in and leaving the church with his choristers. A repetition of this course was evidently intended on Sunday afternoon. When the service was finished, and the choristers were leaving the church, they found some persons standing in the lobby with their hats on, and, on passing them to go to the vestry to unbuckle, they attempted to knock their hats off. This led to an angry altercation, and at length one of the choristers struck some one, when a fearful disturbance took place. The crowd attempted to pull the choristers' surplices off; blows were exchanged; hats were knocked off; groans, hootings, and hisses were heard; cries of "Turn out the Puseyites!" "Go to Rome!" and "Police!" were raised. Mr. Churchwarden Thompson insisted on the Rector ordering his choristers to retire into the vestry, which was done, and order was restored on Mr. Thompson promising to make an investigation into the matter the next day. The parishioners then retired outside the church, where they waited until the Rector and his choristers left to go to the rectory (adjoining the *sacred office*), and again greeted them with groans and yells.

COLONEL JOHN ALEXANDER FORBES, of the 92nd Highlanders, has been committed for trial for having "unlawfully and wickedly uttered and published an obscene and indecent letter with intent to debauch and corrupt Adelaide Lucy Fenton."

TEARING DOWN THE PORTRAIT OF ORSINI.

In our artist's last letter there was mention made of a demonstration having taken place in Turin against the French Emperor, owing to the unsatisfactory conclusion to which he had brought the war of Italian Independence. One way in which the revulsion of feeling on the part of the Turinese was shown was by the substitution in place of the portrait of Napoleon III., which had hitherto occupied a position of honour in every printseller's window, the almost-forgotten features of Felice Orsini.

When the result of the meeting at Villafranca became known there was a cry of rage and vexation throughout the entire Italian peninsula. And, to quote the words of a writer in the *Times*, "the same southern exaggeration of mind and feeling which had led the Italians to see in the French Emperor a species of military Messiah, who was at length, and after so many years of weary suffering, to free them from their worse than Egyptian bondage, threw them, when he proved untrue to their expectations, into premature despair. The open looks of love and veneration which had greeted his onward progress were converted into glances of hatred and execration on his homeward path. Once they came out to bless him, now they cursed him as he passed by. But a few weeks back no name had been pronounced from Mont Cenis to the Straits of Messina with such passionate fervour of devotion as that of the Emperor of the French; now the name of 'traitor' was coupled with that of Louis Napoleon from the Po to the Neapolitan frontier."

The incident illustrated in our Engraving has already been described in our correspondent's letter. It refers to an officer of French gendarmerie who, enraged at the insult offered to his Emperor, tears down the portrait of Orsini and tramples it beneath his feet.

THE TOWER OF SAN SALVATORE.

In our last impression we published a View of Monzambano, the head-quarters of the King of Sardinia; in the present Number we engrave the Tower of San Salvatore, the first position occupied by Victor Emmanuel and his Staff on that Monarch taking the field. San Salvatore is about six miles north of Alessandria, and is situated on a range of hills that overlook a large portion of the valley of the Po. From the summit of the old tower, which crowns the heights above the village, Casale and Vercelli are easily discernible, and the movements of an enemy occupying the left bank of the river can be watched with certainty.

When Victor Emmanuel, three months ago, used to climb the ruined brickwork of this observatory, full of hope and reliant on the promises of his Imperial brother, he little thought that at the Mincio he should be called upon to sheath the sword of liberty at the "liberator's" bidding. As it is, from the Alps to the Adriatic means from the Alps

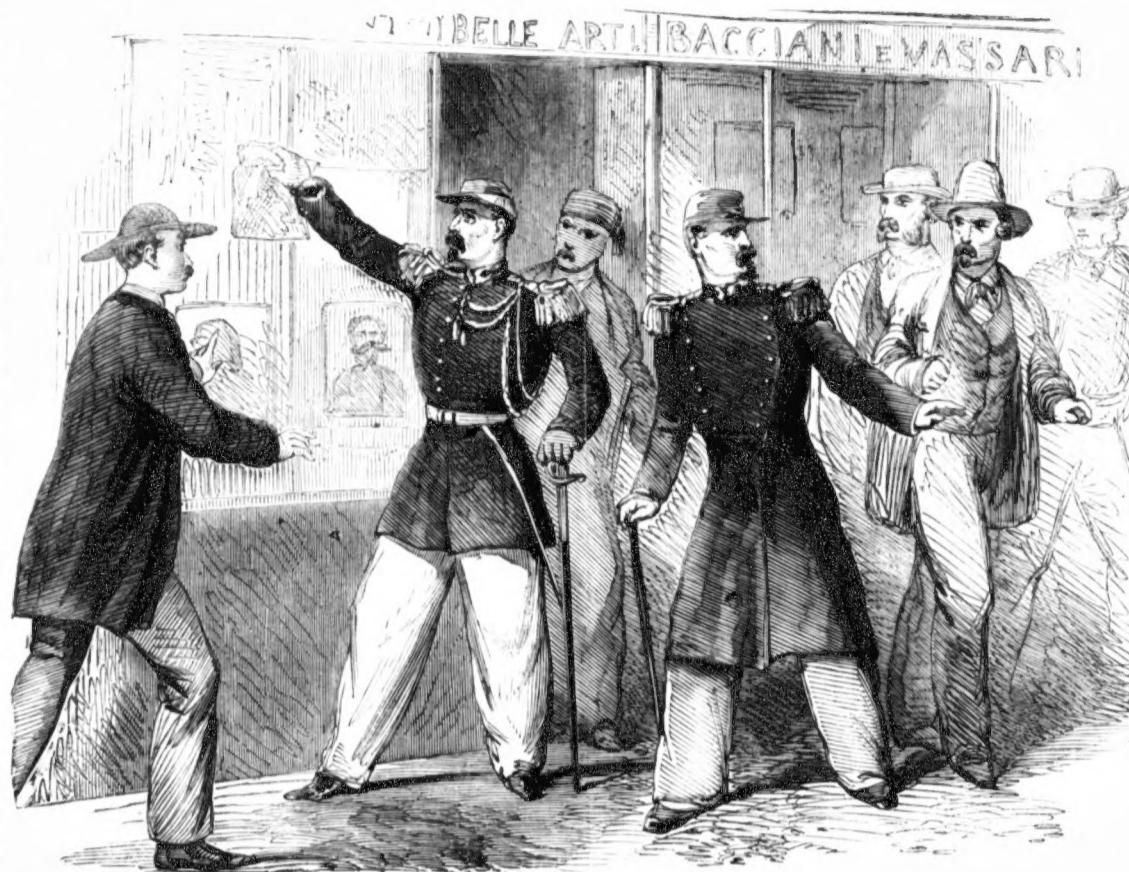
to the Mincio; and a new map of Northern Italy will have to be constructed, ignoring the existence of Venetia.

The Tower of San Salvatore was the place whence Victor Emmanuel first saw the enemy's front: had faith been kept with him and Italy, he should have seen their retreating legions from the Tower of San Mark.

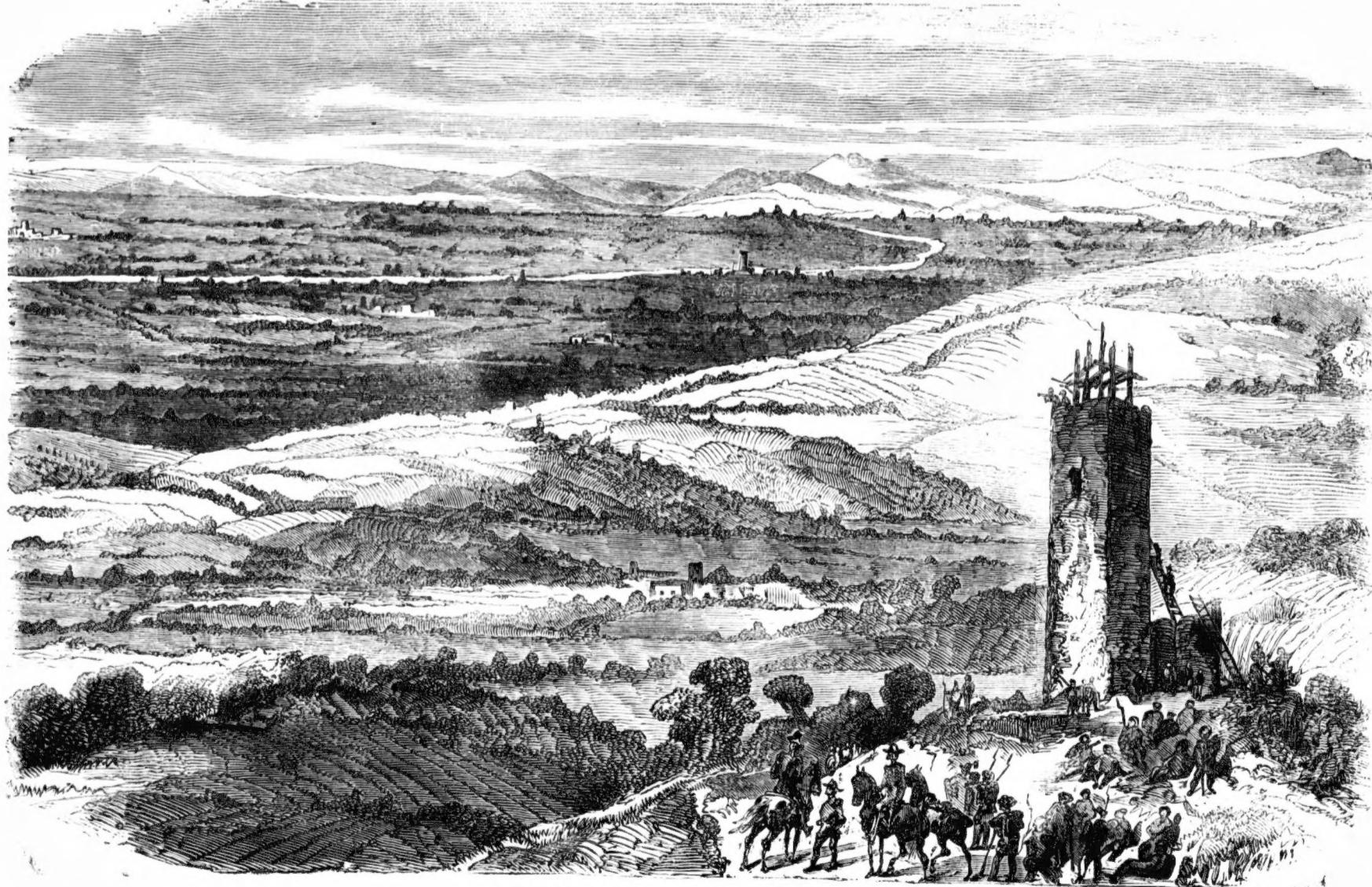
POPULAR MOVEMENTS IN THE ITALIAN DUCHIES.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Daily News* says:—"I hasten to inform you that two foolish revolutionary attempts have been on the point of breaking out in Tuscany. Although they were both intended to do much mischief to the national cause of Italy, the objects they aimed at were widely different. The first attempt to alter the actual state of affairs was organised at Florence by a few minions of the Grand Duke; the second was the work of a few madmen, who took it into their heads to proclaim the Republic at Leghorn. However, the good sense of the population on the one hand, and the firmness of the central Government on the other, soon put down these lawless manifestations, which, if successful, would have, no doubt, greatly increased the hopes of the Austrian party. It seems that the leadership of the Florence movement had devolved on the Countess Bocella, a natural daughter of the

of Modena, Parma, Tuscany, and Bologna have signed an offensive and defensive league to meet the emergencies of the future. The 13th article of this convention gives the command of the confederate army to a General to be appointed by the different Governments of the league. This is a wise decision, the result of which will be to unite the direction of the federative forces under one chief. Were I to believe a rumour current here, General Garibaldi will be intrusted with the command of the army. I think, however, the rumour is at least premature, for an officer of the general staff told me this morning that no orders for departure have yet been given. What is certain is, that seventeen Roman battalions have been sent by the Provisional Governments of the Romagna towards the Cattolica. When arrived there half of them will be directed on Urbino, the other half on Gubbio and Perugia. These battalions will soon be increased by 2000 volunteers dismissed from the Piedmontese service, and by others coming from the Romagna, Ferrara, and Comacchio. The patriotic army has also at its disposal eight field guns and two squadrons of dragoons. With these forces it can both meet the Papal Swiss troops, and maintain order in the provinces. If the danger should come from Modena, Parma, or Tuscany, they will be able to join the confederate troops there, and to repel any attempt that may be made by the pretenders to the thrones of those little States."



A CAPTAIN OF FRENCH GENDARMERIE TEARING DOWN THE PORTRAIT OF ORSINI AT TURIN.
(FROM A SKETCH BY P. VIZETELLY.)



TOWER OF SAN SALVATORE, PIEDMONT.

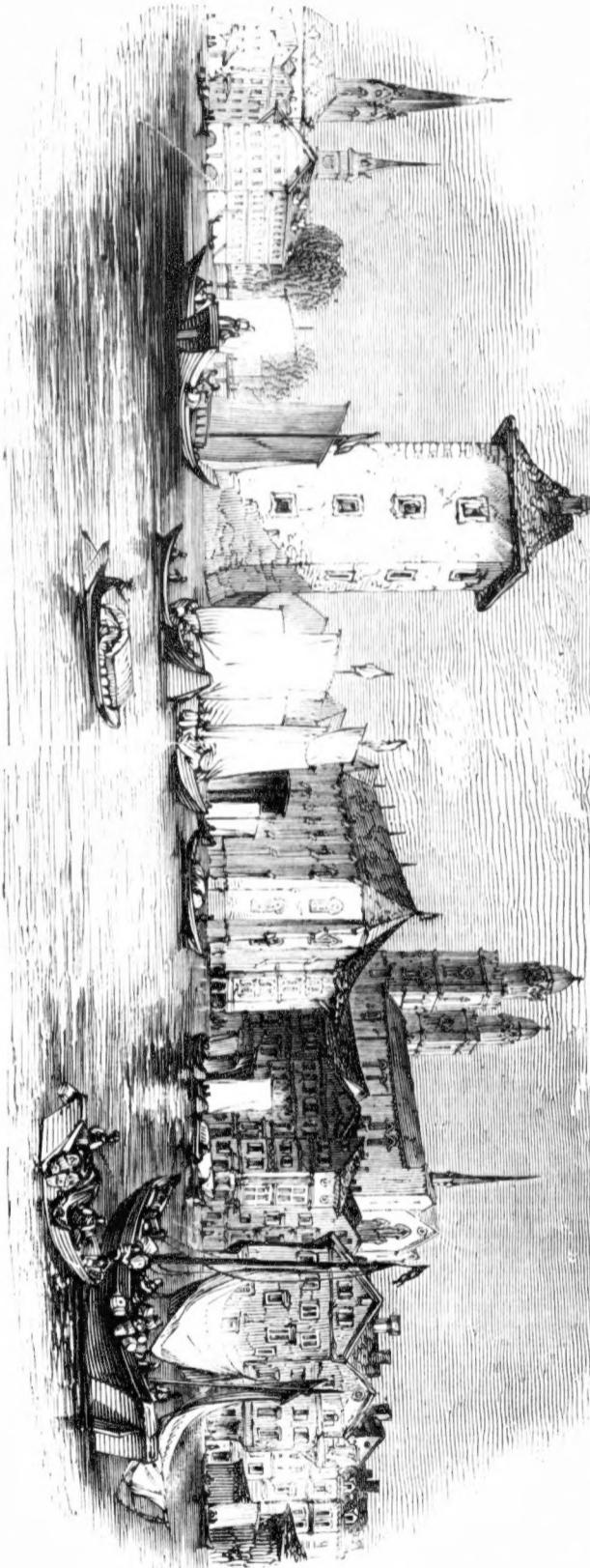
ZURICH.

Zurich is the capital of a Swiss canton of the same name, and has been chosen as the place at which the Italian question is to be discussed, and the fate of some 265,000 (110) of people decided. The city is delightfully situated on the "margin of Zurich's fair waters"—we quote the well-known words of the song; and mean the lake, which is greatly celebrated for its picturesque beauties. The Limmat, which quits the lake at this spot, passes through the town, and divides it into two parts, communicating with each other by three fine bridges. What greatly adds to the importance of Zurich is the fact of its being one of the three cities in which the Federal Diet of Switzerland meet, and this, in addition to its fame as a seat of learning, has given it a consequence scarcely enjoyed by other towns of the Helvetic Confederation. It has a University, established in 1832, and which in 1834 could boast of 209 students. There are, besides a cantonal school, and many other educational institutions, a public library of 45,000 volumes, a cabinet of medals and natural history, a botanic garden, and numerous learned societies.

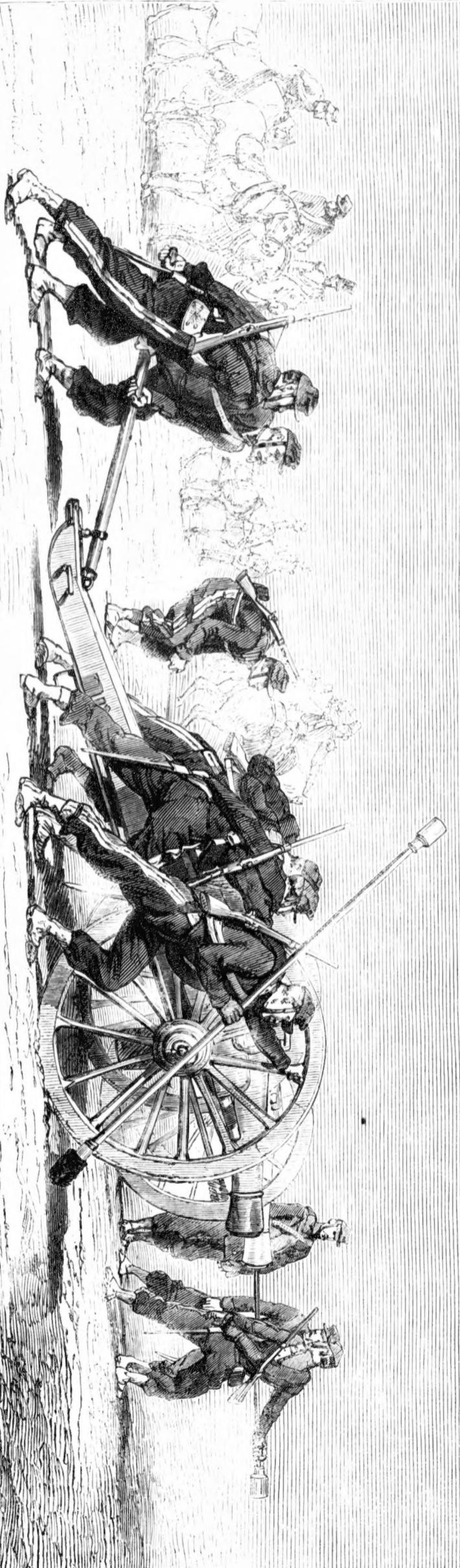
Some of Switzerland's greatest men first saw the

light at Zurich; amongst them we may mention the names of Gessner, Zimmerman, Lavater, and Pestalozzi. It was here also that the Reformation commenced in Switzerland, guided by the teachings of Ulrich Zwingli, in 1519, and it was here that the first complete English version of the Bible was printed by Miles Coverdale, in 1525. During the persecutions of the Protestants by Queen Mary, numbers of them fled to Zurich, and were kindly treated by the citizens during their exile.

Zurich was the ancient Turicum, and vestiges of its great antiquity are still to be seen. It is surrounded by old walls, which are laid out as promenades, and from them a fine view can be obtained of the town and lake. Nothing can exceed the beauty of the scene at sunset from a portion of the ramparts



ZURICH, THE PLACE OF MEETING OF THE PEACE CONFERENCE.



known as the 'Cats' Bastion. The eye embraces the whole of the populous and smiling shores of the lake, to the distant peaks and glaciers of the Alps, of Glarus, Uri, and Schwyz, the whole tinged with the most delicate rose tints from the last rays of the setting orb.

FRENCH RIFLED CANNON IN ACTION.

The late war in Italy has established the superiority of the new French rifled cannon over any other field-piece now in use. This superiority was more especially shown at the battle of Solferino, where their range and their precision were almost incredible. Their shells could be seen bursting amongst the guns and infantry of the enemy, while those fired from the Austrian artillery, at the highest elevation, fell far short of the mark, or else burst in the air.

The terrible execution the new cannon is capable of doing was most strikingly demonstrated on the enemy's reserves, which were massed in the rear at a distance hitherto considered safe. The French, having chosen a good position for their guns on a rising ground, commenced playing on these masses, which were soon fearfully cut up, and that without the means of replying to or checking the fire to which they were exposed, as their heaviest ordnance could not get within anything like range. Thus the French artillery destroyed the Austrian reserves without their being able to strike one blow, or be of any assistance to their front line, which was left to be dealt with by the bayonet.

The lightness of the new pieces is such that they are easily drawn over rough ground by four horses, and even two will generally suffice to move them; and they can also be brought up hills so steep that infantry find a difficulty in scaling them.

It behoves Sir W. Armstrong to hasten the construction of his apparently all-powerful weapon, that we may not be placed in the position of the Austrian reserves—be shot at without getting a shot in return.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 112.

DR. MICHELL.—HE GETS INTO PARLIAMENT.

In the year 1852, and long before, there lived in the dull town of Bodmin, in Cornwall, a middle-aged gentleman named Michell. He was a physician retired from practice; and in 1852 he was suddenly seized with a desire to get into Parliament, stood a contest, and came in at the head of the poll. What made this quiet gentleman ambitious to be a senator is a question which we cannot answer. Perhaps, having nothing particular to do, time hung heavily upon his hands, and he took this mode of lightening the burden; or it may be that, meditating down there upon the shocking manner in which we are governed, he came to the conclusion that something was rotten in the State, and to the patriotic determination to come here, and, if possible, to set it right. However that may be, he came, as member for Bodmin, and such he continued to be until the year 1857. "Dr. Michell! Dr. Michell! we never heard of the gentleman," we think we hear some of our readers say. Perhaps not; but we have heard of him, and heard him too; and not unfrequently when we wished that he was silent in bed, for, though the doctor is not and never was much of a talker, when he did talk it was generally at a very unseasonable hour. The time was one o'clock in the morning, and his pet subject was vaccination; and such "bald, disjointed chat" as the honourable member used to utter we never heard before or since. His idea on vaccination is worth notice. To his mind, this famous remedy of Dr. Jenner was not only valueless but noxious; and we have often heard him say that not only had it not prevented smallpox, but, as a physician, he believed that it had been the means of spreading the most frightful diseases.

IS DEFEATED—BUT REGAINS HIS POST.

Well, in 1857 Dr. Michell was defeated; and a very heavy blow and sore mortification this defeat was to the worthy doctor. He had been in Parliament five years, he liked it much, and, to return to the dull town of Bodmin again went sorely against the grain. Besides this, was not his contemplated victory over cowpox and the doctors still ungained? Truly it was a sad blow. However, as we all know, in the spring of the year—much sooner than was expected—there came another general election, and, of course, another chance for the worthy doctor, and this chance he seized, and, what is more, he won the prize again; for whereas in 1857 Wyld beat Michell by 21, in 1859 the repentant electors returned to their old love, and placed Michell above Wyld by 31; and great were the rejoicings amongst the Michellites that they had again got their old member, and high were the spirits of the doctor when he once more walked into the House, received the greetings of his old friends, took the oaths and his seat, and felt himself once more member for Bodmin and a British senator.

IS PETITIONED AGAINST.

But, as the proverb saith, "There is many a slip between the cup and the lip;" and so it turned out here, for no sooner was the worthy doctor seated than, alas! he discovered that a petition was lodged against his return—charging him with bribery, corruption, intimidation, and all that sort of thing. This was a heavier blow than his defeat in 1857; for what was the doctor to do in such case? True, he had never been guilty of these misdeeds; neither by self or agent had he given a penny for a vote; and as to the doctor intimidating anyone, the thing was ridiculous, for it is not in the nature of the worthy doctor to frighten a mouse. But then to meet this petition would cost a power of money, and money is a commodity which in sufficient quantity to meet large expenses the doctor had never possessed. He had "the income of a gentleman." With due economy he could pay occasionally the cost of an election, live comfortably in town, and keep out of debt; but a petition is a costly affair; it might cost £2000 or £3000; and how could the mere "income of a gentleman" stand such a strain as this?

HE COMPROMISES.

Such was the dilemma of the doctor. He liked Parliament, appreciated the honour of a seat in the Senate, but he had a great horror of debt; and so when a proposition came from the enemy that, on condition that he would vacate his seat, the petition should be withdrawn, he reluctantly yet bravely accepted it; and rather than incur him self with liabilities which he would never be able to discharge he consented to relinquish his highly prized senatorial honours, closed with the proposal, and prepared in due time to return to private life.

IS BROUGHT TO BOOK BY ROEBUCK.

But this sort of arrangement, though not morally wrong, is certainly opposed to the spirit of our Parliamentary Constitution, and therefore must be kept a secret. Secrets are, however, things proverbially difficult to keep; and so it turned out in this case; for somehow this secret unfortunately oozed out, and, more unfortunately still, by some circuitous route came to the ears of that immaculate patriot, Mr. Roebuck. Now, there were two courses open to Mr. Roebuck when he heard of this compromise. He might go to Dr. Michell and quietly ascertain the true state of the case; or he might at once bring the matter before the House. The first is probably the course which most men would have taken, but it was not the course likely to recommend itself to Mr. Roebuck; for Mr. Roebuck is, as we all know, the self-appointed guardian of the Constitution, and he would no more think, in such a case, of going to the suspected delinquent to get at the truth of the matter than a policeman or a magistrate would think of consulting a man charged with theft as to the truth of the charge. And so, without consultation had with any one, Mr. Roebuck brought the matter before the House.

DR. MICHELL COMES OFF VICTORIOUS.

It was on Thursday night that Mr. Roebuck rose to open the accusation against poor Dr. Michell, and he did it in his grandest manner. His words were few and good, and his manner was as solemn as that of a Judge when he is condemning a prisoner. "It was a corrupt compromise; the House ought to take action upon it." And he concluded with a resolution, which he strongly called upon the House to confirm, that "any Minister of the Crown would be guilty of a breach of privilege who should advise the Crown to confer the office of the Chiltern Hundreds, &c., on any person charged with corrupt practices at the elections with a view to evading the jurisdiction of the House." But no! the House could not do this; for the House of Commons, with all its faults, is still an assembly of English gentlemen, and English gentlemen are generous and just, and will not condemn a man unheard and without trial; and so for that day Mr. Roebuck was obliged to submit to an adjournment till another day, when Dr. Michell was to appear in his place to hear the charge, and to answer it if he could. Well, on the following night Dr. Michell, in obedience to summons, appeared in his place, and Mr. Roebuck repeated the charge. The House was crowded, and when the worthy doctor arose there was breathless silence, and as we surveyed the little man we confess that we felt apprehension. In the first place, the allegation might be true, or, if it were not true, the worthy doctor, from nervousness, and not being by any means a good speaker, might be wholly unable to state his case with success. But soon all apprehension was at an end. A few sentences told us that the doctor was equal to the occasion. On ordinary occasions Dr. Michell is anything but eloquent, but in this instance he was. It was not the eloquence of the practised orator—for the doctor has none of that—but the eloquence of simple, honest man who deeply felt that he had been wrongfully accused. Every word told. His simple statement not only convinced the reason, but evidently touched the hearts of his hearers; and, when he sat down, he was loudly and feelingly cheered. Now, when Mr. Roebuck had heard this statement, which in substance we have already given, he ought generously to have withdrawn his motion; but, though in private life Mr. Roebuck is generous and kind, in the House of Commons he is not. In the House he is the severe patriot, and thinks it sin to be otherwise than austere and relentless; and so he pushed the matter to a division, and was rewarded for his patriotism by the sanction of 30 supporters against 214. And here endeth the tale of Dr. Michell. We suppose, according to arrangement, he will return to Bodmin, and perhaps never enter the House again. Well, he is a simple-minded, honourable man, and we wish him all happiness for the remainder of his life.

COLONEL GREVILLE.

Colonel Greville, the member for Longford, was also very nearly getting himself into a mesh; but his story may be briefly told. Colonel Greville was selected to serve on the Election Committee appointed to the petition against the sitting member for Kingston-upon-Hull; but, when the Committee was called to the table to be sworn, he could nowhere be found; and, on inquiry being made, it was discovered that the gallant Colonel had gone to Ireland, and was at that moment at the head of his regiment of militia some forty miles beyond Dublin. Now, it is a rule of the House that no member liable to serve on Committees shall leave town without permission. Colonel Greville is an old member; but it appears that he was ignorant of this rule, and had gone away without leave to perform his military duties; and so there was nothing to be done but to post off the Deputy-Serjeant after the Colonel with proper warrant to take him into custody; and at night, armed with this authority, Captain Gossett started by mail train to perform his duty, and bring back with all haste the disobedient member. Meantime the telegraph had been set to work, and the news conveyed to Colonel Greville that the Serjeant was on his way. The telegram reached him at Mullingar, and instantly, on receipt thereof, he started for London, and fortunately met the Serjeant at Dublin. He was taken into custody of course, and brought to town with all speed; and on Friday, in expectation that he would be brought to the bar, and that we should have a scene, there was a large attendance of members; but we had no scene. The Serjeant-at-Arms stepped to the centre of the floor and informed the Speaker that he had Colonel Greville in custody. Whereupon the Irish Attorney-General, on behalf of the honourable and gallant Colonel, explained the mistake, expressed all due regret that the House had been put to inconvenience, and moved that he be discharged on payment of the fees, which motion, being seconded by Sir Francis Baring, was carried; and the Colonel was liberated. The fees and expenses amount to about £25, and, considering the inconvenience to which the hon. member had put the other members of the Committee, and the grievous expense which he had entailed upon the petitioners, the sum cannot be considered too severe a penalty. Some hundred witnesses were waiting the arrival of the gallant Colonel, and the cost of keeping all these in town two or three days must have been very serious.

LORD ELCHO.

On Monday night Lord Elcho brought on his long-expected motion on the propriety of England being represented in the approaching Congress. Lord Elcho is the son of the Earl of Wemyss, and is in the prime of life. His Lordship has principally devoted himself to questions of art and other cognate matters, but lately he has shown a disposition to fly at higher game. The noble Lord was once a Conservative, then a Liberal, and now calls himself a "Liberal Conservative." We need hardly say that Lord Elcho follows no one and has no followers. He sits below the gangway on the Government side of the House, but his position does not symbolise his political status. His Lordship may be called a politician unattached. Lord Elcho does not frequently address the House, but when he does he amply makes up by the largeness of his discourse for his intervals of silence. His speeches are of the gold-leaf sort—they are spread over a great surface, but there is not in them much intrinsic value. Once when he was talking a gentleman present asked what he was talking about. "He wants," was the reply, "the map of Scotland to be like his own speeches, on the six-inch scale." This was a witty and apt description of his Lordship's harangues: they are upon a large scale, but there is not more in them than there is in many much shorter addresses. Lord Elcho's manner of speaking is all his own. His voice is soft and musical; his words flow out in a mellifluous, continuous stream; and his action is so regular and gentle that you would fancy it to be the result of clockwork rather than of living force. For our part, we can never keep awake under his Lordship's soothing eloquence. The soft tones of his voice, the pendulous motion of his body, and the queer, changeless action of his right arm, have all the power upon us of a mesmeric pass; and such seems to be the effect generally upon the House. Last Monday, for instance, we glanced at the Treasury bench while he was addressing the House. Sidney Herbert was dead asleep; Palmerston, under the shadow of his hat, we believe was slumbering likewise; Lord John Russell, if not dreaming, was in a profound reverie; and no one there seemed to be wide awake but Gladstone, who, having to answer the noble Lord, was busy taking notes. And all over the House there was that sort of dreamy appearance that you perceive in a country church on a hot summer's afternoon under the drowsing of a dull discourse. It was another thing when Gladstone arose—there was no sleeping then. Every head was up, every eye was fixed upon the speaker. We have all of us seen the effect produced upon a sleepy congregation when the "Amen" rouses it to a sense of the fact that the sermon is done. Such was the effect of Gladstone rising. But we have often described the oratory of this notable man, and shall often have to do so again. Such, then, is Lord Elcho—an accomplished man, but not a power in the House, excepting a power to lull the House to soft repose.

CORPORATION FINANCE.—Returns just issued show the gross expenditure of the City's cash for the quarter ending the 10th of July, 1859, to be £91,920 11s. 6d., and the income for the same period was £109,335 15s. 4d. On the 9th of April a balance was brought over of £36,334 17s. 10d. This, added to the excess of receipts over expenditure for the present quarter, leaves a present balance to carry forward of £33,768 1s. 9d. It should be stated, however, that on the debtor side is a sum of £20,000 loan raised of the Bank of England, for which there is a compensating credit of £65,000 "transferred to the reserve fund to provide for loans falling due."

EMIGRATION IN 1858.—A compact pocket Blue-book recently published shows that emigration from Great Britain is on the decline. In 1857 the number of emigrants was 212,875; in 1858, 113,972. The commercial crisis of 1857, and the distress in the Australian colonies, account for this decline in some degree; but a more satisfactory and permanent cause of decrease is to be found, says the report, in the altered condition of Ireland. In 1851 not less than three-fourths of the whole number who left the United Kingdom were Irish. Since that period the proportion has gradually declined, until, in 1858, it fell to 38 per cent. Of the 113,972 emigrants last year, 97,040 went to British North America, 59,716 to the United States, and 39,295 to Australia. 17,207 emigrants to Australia last year paid their own passage, and 15,919 were assisted. 18,841 emigrants returned last year from America, and 48,633 from Australia and New Zealand. The return of emigrants from America is attributed to the commercial distress which prevailed in the United States and British North America. The smaller number who returned from Australia consist, probably, of persons who, having acquired property, have come back to enjoy it in the mother country. Persons of no calling or experience in work are emphatically warned that there is no chance whatever for them in Canada. Capital, or the means of labour, is indispensable. Farmers possessed of £500, prudent and industrious, are sure to do well. Capitalists, too, may always find safe investments at 10 or 12 per cent on landed security; the legal interest is 7. Good farm servants stand the next best chance. As to the new colony of British Columbia, no opinion can yet be pronounced on the area of its goldfields, but the general prospects are cheering. The extent to which emigration is affected by the demands for the military and naval services seems very evident. Taking the first three months of each year, in 1854, before the commencement of the Russian war, it was 48,565; and in 1855, 36,677; in 1856, 21,859; in 1857, in the interval between the Russian war and the Indian mutiny, 35,067; in 1858, 19,146; and in 1859, 17,314.

A LUNATIC MURDERER.—It was recently reported that James Atkinson, who was acquitted last year at the York Assizes, on the ground of insanity, of the murder of his sweetheart, had been removed from York Castle to St. George's Lunatic Asylum, London, because he had on several occasions assaulted the gaolers. It now appears that this violence was assumed. One of the local journals says:—"Prior to his removal Atkinson made some attempts at suicide, but these attempts were mere feints, got up with an ingenuity very inconsistent with the mental abilities of an imbecile, and Atkinson has volunteered a statement to a fellow-prisoner that these attempts were made with no other view than to lead the prison officials to send him to St. George's Hospital, where he anticipated comparative ease and luxury. He proposed that he should tie himself up in the airing-yard, when the other prisoners were in the day-room, and that one of the prisoners was to give an alarm and cut him down, when he would remain apparently unconscious for a time. He was to write a letter beforehand, addressed to his friends, and wishing them 'good by' on earth. Juries will probably be cautious in future what credence they give to the evidence of the faculty in such cases."

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

Lord GLANCARTY asked Lord Granville whether it was the intention of her Majesty's Government to propose any change in the present system of national education in Ireland? He denounced the present system as equally opposed to the wishes of both Protestants and Roman Catholics, and showed by statistics that its working was by no means so satisfactory as had been anticipated.

Lord GRANVILLE regretted that the difference of religious opinion prevented co-operation in this all-important question; but he thought it would be futile to import the educational system of this country into Ireland, as it was ill-calculated to gain the popularity necessary for its success. In respect to any specific changes, he had no doubt that the Lord Lieutenant and the Secretary for Ireland would introduce any modifications of the system which could be advantageously adopted.

After a few words from Lords Donoughmore, Dungannon, and Leitrim, the subject dropped.

Several bills were passed through Committee, and others read a second and third time, after which the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NAVAL RESERVES.

On the order for going into Committee upon the Reserve Volunteer Force of Seamen Bill,

Sir C. PAGE explained its object, which was not to increase our fleet, but to enable us to be prepared by sea as we were by land, by having a permanent militia to recruit from and as a reserve for our Navy. It was proposed that men should be invited to enrol themselves for five years, receiving £5 per annum; that they should be called out twenty-eight days in the year for training upon pay; that at the end of five years they should have the option of retiring from the force, or of being enrolled for another period of five years; and that the force should be liable to be called out into active service in any part of the world for two years, with the power of extending their service for two years longer upon increased pay. After stating the provisions as to pensions, he remarked that the measure was an experiment which he trusted might be successful, and that the best means of ensuring its success was to promote a better understanding with the seamen in the merchant service, and make them desirous of entering and loth to leave the Royal Navy.

Mr. LINSDAY urged the severe discipline of the Royal Navy as the reason why merchant seamen disliked entering the Royal service.

Sir C. NAPIER expressed his opinion that corporal punishment could not safely be abolished in the Navy, but that it could be legalised by being inflicted only by sentence of a court-martial.

Sir F. BARING considered that, in the peculiar position of this country, nothing would more conduce to peace than having a good naval reserve. He believed that the proposal of the Government was the best that could be made for this object, and that the experiment would succeed.

After some remarks by Sir J. ELPHINSTONE and Mr. CARDWELL the House went into Committee upon the bill.

PROBATE DUTY.

In a Committee of Ways and Means a resolution, moved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for imposing an additional probate duty upon estates of the value of £1,000,000 and upwards, was agreed to.

OUR ARMY AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Sir DE LACY EVANS moved a resolution that, under present circumstances, it is not necessary or expedient to carry into effect the recent order for dispatching 6700 men to India from the depots of regiments serving in India. He urged this, he said, upon financial and other grounds. The force in this country was small, and the Indian army was immense, far beyond the requirements of India, the Government of which was reducing the native army.

Colonel HERBERT, from documentary evidence, argued that the number of really efficient rank and file composing the military force in this country was inadequate to the requirements of the country.

Observations were made by Sir A. Agnew, Colonel North, Sir T. E. Colebrook, and Colonel Sykes.

Sir C. WOOD said the men about to be sent out were draughts to make up the regiments of the line or of the local force of India.

Mr. HORNSEY repeated his apprehensions as to the insecurity of the country, and urged the necessity of having a larger home force, warning the Government, who were, he said, in possession of confidential information and strong representations, that they incurred a heavy responsibility hereafter.

Colonel DUNNE, Sir F. SMITH, and Colonel Gilpin continued the discussion.

Lord PALMERSTON observed that, although our defensive system was capable of much improvement, and would, he hoped, receive it, yet he did not believe it to be so imperfect as some supposed. He believed that, in the event of a war, we should be able to bring into the field at least 200,000 men, including militia, yeomanry, and dockyard battalions.

After a few words from Colonel DICKSON the resolution was negatived.

The East India Loan Bill was read a second time.

The House then resumed the consideration, in Committee, of the Reserve Volunteer Force of Seamen Bill, the clauses of which were agreed to.

The remaining business having been disposed of, the House adjourned.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CONSOLIDATED FUND.

In the House of Commons, on the order for the second reading of the Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill,

Sir H. WILLIAMSON put a variety of questions to the Government upon financial matters. He observed, he said, that a very considerable increase (about £7,000,000) had taken place in the funded debt, the charge of which had consequently increased without the authority of Parliament. This had been done by the conversion of Exchequer Bills; but he contended that the operation had been effected upon terms disadvantageous to the public, whereby £469,000 more stock had been created than necessary. He insisted that if a conversion of unfunded into funded debt was desired the Chancellor of the Exchequer should come to the House of Commons for authority.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied to the questions. With regard to the powers possessed by the Finance Minister for the conversion and reconversion of public securities, he admitted that they were large, and that it was not desirable that considerable operations of conversion and reconversion should take place without the distinct knowledge of Parliament, and it was his desire to place these transactions upon a more intelligible footing and under the control of the House of Commons. The particular transaction referred to required fuller investigation before it could be decided whether the operation had on the whole been profitable or not.

The bill was read a second time.

The remaining orders having been disposed of, the House adjourned at twenty minutes to two o'clock.

MONDAY, AUGUST 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

OUR NEUTRALITY AND THE PEACE.

Lord NORMANDY, in rising to ask a question relating to the proposals for peace submitted to Austria by her Majesty's Government, expressed his belief that this was the only country in which any mystery still existed with regard to the propositions of the peace of Villafranca. These propositions were popularly believed on the Continent to be the joint production of M. de Persigny and Lord Palmerston, and were considered discreditable to our professed neutrality. In support of this opinion he quoted a despatch from the Prussian Minister at Berlin to the Prussian Envoy at Vienna, and insisted that Lord John Russell, instead of uniting the policy of this country and Prussia, had established a complete breach between them. He proceeded to defend Austria against the charge brought against her of having mediation, which was rejected by Sardinia and France. He was afraid that the present Minister for Foreign Affairs had taken a one-sided view of the question, and had been misled by enthusiasts who would, he feared, be overcome by the Mazzinian party. In connection with Mazzini, he reviewed the present state of affairs in Central Italy, and especially in Tuscany, whose present Government was most tyrannical, and defended the Grand Duke from the accusation that he had ordered the bombardment of Florence. He strongly deprecated any course by which England might be mixed up with these differences, and hoped we should not be parties to any conference to settle Italian affairs.

Lord WODHOUSE explained that the only communication in which the English Ministers had taken part related to a French despatch transmitted by them to Austria, containing propositions for peace, but on which they had offered no opinion of their own. They had acted as simple intermediaries. In reference to other topics touched upon by Lord Normandy he declined to enter into a discussion so wide and miscellaneous as that involving the whole range of the Italian controversy, as well as the conduct of every European Power in relation to that question.

Lord NORMANDY asked Lord Granville whether the transmission of the French proposals to Austria was or was not the act of the Cabinet?

Lord GRANVILLE answered the question in the affirmative.

The subject then dropped.

After some other business the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CONFERENCE ON ITALIAN AFFAIRS.

Lord Elcho moved an Address to her Majesty, stating that, in the opinion of this House, it would be consistent neither with the honour or the dignity of this country to take part in any Conference for the purpose of settling the details of a peace or preliminaries of which have been arranged between the Emperor of the French and the Emperor of Austria. Lord Elcho avowed his concurrence with those who did not consider the war justifiable, or that Austria was the aggressor. Sardinia had pursued towards Austria a policy of provocation and insult. She had been long bent upon the war; she had made preparations for it; and the principle of armed intervention, on the ground assigned by France, was one against which we ought to protest. Neutrality was defined to be a state of indifference—of neither friendship nor hostility; but the neutrality of the present Government was not of that character. What they had sought in 1848 they sought now—the exclusion of Austria from Italy. He maintained that the true policy of this country was that of non-intervention. The Government said they did not mean to go into the Conference on any questions of detail; but as they entered it as friends of Italy, and upon its general affairs, what did they propose to do with reference to the Dalmatians, to the States of the Church, to the French occupation of Rome? If we had confidence in the Emperor of the French, let us, he said, keep out of the Conference; if we distrusted him, *a fortiori*, let us keep out of the Conference. He believed that it would be for the good of Italy that we should abstain as far as possible from interference in its affairs.

Mr. KINGLAKE moved the "previous question," because, he said, Lord Elcho's proposal could not be met by either an affirmative or a negative vote. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the original motion spoke of taking part in a Conference for the purpose of settling the details of the peace between the two Emperors. He was not aware of any such intention. The details of the peace would be settled by the belligerents themselves, and what remained would be, not the details of the peace, but great questions of European policy, vitally affecting the happiness of Italy. The principal point made by Lord Elcho was the contrast between the neutrality of the late and that of the present Government. He (Mr. Gladstone) gave credit to the late Government for their intention, and for a restless but a sound and manly assiduity to maintain peace; and there had been no departure from that neutrality on the part of the present Government. The object of Lord Elcho's motion was to prevent the Government from taking part in the Conference, lest they should be hostile to Austria. There was no foundation for such a supposition. It was the desire of the Government to see Austria strong, flourishing, and happy; but it did not follow that they might not have their own feeling and conviction that she might, by another policy, better discharge her duties and consult her own separate and individual interests. To understand the present position of Austria it was necessary to go back for the last forty-five years. During that interval, wherever liberty had raised its head in Italy it was crushed by the hand of Austria, and abuses were re-established in all their rigour. It was necessary that the British Government should consider what, in the present state of circumstances, was best for Italy, for Austria, and for Europe. Might not Austria be stronger out of Italy than in it? This was an opinion which might be held by honest men, and he was himself strongly of that opinion. The question for the House to decide was, would it, by a dry, rigid formula, take upon itself the functions of the Executive? Lord Elcho argued that we had confidence in the Emperor of the French or we had not; and in either case we should not enter into the Conference. He agreed that if we had not confidence, and were essentially at variance with France, it would be a question of prudence how far we should enter into the Conference; but he could not understand the other branch of the dilemma, which would come to this—that, whatever be the liberal sentiments of the Emperor of the French, we should refuse to assist him, but leave him to struggle with his difficulties. This was a recommendation which he earnestly entreated the House to discountenance.

Mr. S. FITZGERALD rested his support of Lord Elcho's resolution upon the distrust which he felt in the policy of the Government. He proceeded to remark upon the evasions and reticence of the Ministry, charging them with having withheld documents and doted out information imperfectly and reluctantly. Advertising then to sundry points certain to come before the Congress, he insisted that there were none in which English interference would be useful, and many from which the interference was calculated to produce disturbance and collision, even to the extent of provoking another war.

Mr. B. COCHRANE said, if he had had any doubt of the expediency of Lord Elcho's motion, it would have been set at rest by the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which betrayed the feeling with which the Government would approach the Conference. The whole antecedents of Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell proved that they could not enter it in a neutral spirit. The speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was a partisan one.

Mr. C. GILPIN observed that the question before the House was whether it was desirable to bind the hands of the Government not to have anything to do with any Conference. Such a course was objectionable, he thought.

The O'DONOGHUE offered his support to Lord Elcho's motion.

Mr. M. MILNES believed that the speech of Mr. Gladstone interpreted the general understanding of what a neutral position meant, which should not impede the expression of feeling on questions of right and justice. A refusal to take part in a Conference might be not only impolitic but unmanly towards other Powers.

Mr. HENNESSY cited authorities to show that agriculture, manufactures, and commerce had made greater progress in the Papal States, and those under the rule of Austria in Italy, than in Sardinia, where taxation had increased so as to cripple trade.

Mr. HORSMAN said the motion was not, as represented by Mr. Gladstone, an unqualified assertion of an abstract principle, but a precise application of a rule of policy affirmed by the country. The motion called upon the House to stand by the principle of strict neutrality, and not to allow the country to be plunged into a turbid sea of complications. There were two questions—first, what was it we wished to achieve at the Conference? Secondly, what chance had we of success? Free institutions for Italy, and the removal of foreign troops from its territory, were to be the objects. But was there the slightest hope that a European Congress would consent to them? Here, then, were the elements of a dozen wars. He hoped the House would forbid the Government from going into the Conference, by which we could not serve Italy, but might lower ourselves.

Mr. HERBERT said the Government had never been asked to join in settling the details of the treaty of Villafranca, nor had they, as alleged, abdicated at the notion of joining the Conference. But would it be right for England, if asked on terms which afforded a chance of success, to refuse to take part in a Conference by which a more permanent arrangement might be made for the security of Italy? He did not say they were going to the Conference; but, if difficulties were removed and objections at an end, a refusal to do so would be a dereliction of duty on the part of the Government.

Mr. WHITESIDE defended the motion. Looking at the terms of the preliminaries of Villafranca, he professed his ignorance of what remained for a general settlement. The whole matter appeared to have been decided, and England was to be called upon merely to lend her sanction to arrangements the fundamental points of which were contained in the treaty.

Lord J. RUSSELL observed that the motion proposed an address to the Crown not to do a thing which it was never asked to do by anybody, and which there was not the smallest intention to do. The preliminaries of Villafranca did not propose to regulate definitively the settlement of Italy. That country might be threatened by a bloody revolution or a foreign intervention; and if Russia, Prussia, and England, by joining the Congress, could agree to the terms upon which a confederation might be formed, were we to say we had registered a vow in Heaven against entering into a conference? As other questions were left to the advisers of the Crown, subject to their responsibility, so this question should be left to them. When the time came, and they knew all the circumstances, they would be able to say "ay" or "no" to the proposition; though at present, so far from being an advocate for a Conference, he saw more objections against it than reasons for it. He gave full details of the circumstances attending the propositions for a peace received from M. de Persigny, observing that, although the Government claimed no credit in the matter, he did rejoice that peace had been the result.

Mr. DISRAELI said the Chancellor of the Exchequer had evaded the practical question under consideration. He had frankly placed his Italian policy before the House; and if these large and decided views were shared by his colleagues, and indicated the predominant opinion of the Cabinet, then the policy under which the Government proposed to enter the Conference was to put an end to the settlement of forty-five years ago. With reference to the communication from the French Ambassador, Lord J. Russell's explanation had been ample, except upon the most material point—whether he had generally approved of the proposal, and whether that approbation was communicated to the Emperor of the French. He objected to the motion that it called upon the House to give an opinion upon the question on what was practically the last night of the Session, and he trusted that Lord Elcho would not press it to a division.

Lord PALMERSTON denied that any approbation had been expressed of the paper received from the French Ambassador. With respect to the Conference, the Government did not propose to go into a Conference at all; but, if they did, it would not be to upset the arrangements of 1851. He was of opinion that Austria would be stronger if she had no Italian possessions; but it was one thing to hold this opinion, and another to enter into measures to change arrangements founded upon treaties that were the basis of a great European settlement.

Lord Elcho defended his motion, which, satisfied with the discussion, he did not press; and the question was not put.—The House then adjourned.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE MILITIA.

Lord RIBES, in moving the second reading of the Militia Laws Amendment Bill, briefly explained the object of the bill.

Lord STRATFORD DE REPSOY regretted the suspension of the ballot for the Militia at a time when a large force was so much needed for the defence of the country. In the present condition of Europe it was not only necessary but an absolute duty to have a sufficient force to maintain our position and independence as a nation. At present our position was not one of strength; and as long as it remained so he earnestly hoped that we should not enter into the Congress, as we should not do credit to ourselves, nor exercise a beneficial influence for the interests of the others.

Lord KINSGOOD insisted not only on the necessity of retaining the ballot for the Militia, but advocated a system which differed in but few particulars from compulsory service, or conscription.

Lord RIBES, while he assured the House that the attention of the Government had been most earnestly devoted to the subject of procuring sufficient forces for the defence of the country, deprecated the adoption of such measures as those proposed by Lord Kingsdown, especially in time of peace. He thought it expedient to retain the ballot as an extraordinary means for procuring men, but was by no means convinced that it would meet with the approbation of the country under present circumstances, because it would be difficult to distinguish it from the system of conscription.

The bill was then read a second time.

Their Lordships then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE EAST INDIA LOAN BILL.

On the consideration of the East India Loan Bill, as amended, a conversation arose regarding the expediency of granting an Imperial guarantee.

STRIKES.

Mr. MACKINNON obtained leave to bring in a bill to establish equitable councils of conciliation to adjust differences between masters and operatives.

RIGOUR IN THE ARMY.

Mr. J. LOCKE called attention to the ease of enlistment in her Majesty's 96th Regiment of Foot of the late private James Caulfield, who, when under fifteen years of age, was enlisted in that regiment at Westminster, on the 23rd of September, 1857; and, his discharge having been refused, he died from the rigours of discipline at Parkhurst Hospital on the 21st of July, 1858. He stated the circumstances of the case, in order to show that the rules and regulations of the service had been interfered with in the enlistment of the youth.

He was proceeding with his statement, when the House was counted out.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords met on Wednesday, and passed a long series of bills through certain stages of progress.

The European Troops (India) Bill and some other measures were brought up from the Commons, and read a first time.

Their Lordships then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ELECTION AFFAIRS.

Mr. BRIGHT moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the circumstances connected with the withdrawal of a petition from Mr. Caulders, the unsuccessful candidate at the late election for Pontefract, challenging the return of Mr. Overend at that election.

Mr. OVEREND entered into a detailed explanation of the negotiations which had taken place respecting the petition against his return, and of the understanding upon which, as he imagined, it had been withdrawn, vindicating himself from all suspicion of having assented to a "corrupt compromise."

Some discussion followed, in which the conduct of the sitting member for the borough, the petitioner, and the agents employed in the affair, was canvassed on different sides. The motion was ultimately agreed to, and the Committee appointed.

OUR ARMY IN INDIA.

On the order for considering the European Troops (India) Bill, as amended,

Sir C. WOOD explained the particular reason for introducing this bill. He stated the limitations which had been imposed upon the East India Company as to the number of their European troops, which had been increased by Act of Parliament, in 1853, to 21,000; but that number had been at one time exceeded under a doubt which this bill would remove, legalizing what had been done, and giving a margin for an increased force to the extent of 30,000. Referring to the discontent of the European troops in India, he observed that he did not think they had any substantial grievance; but there were palliatives of their conduct, and he did not think it fair to treat them as wrongheaded or mutinous. The matter had been left to the decision of the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in India, and the men who wished it were to have their discharge and be sent home. He remarked that most of the malcontents were men who had recently arrived in India.

After some discussion, in which General Peel, Sir De Lacy Evans, and Mr. S. Herbert took part, The bill was read a third time and passed.

THE WAKEFIELD ELECTION.

On the motion of Mr. HODGSON a commission was nominated to inquire into corrupt practices at the late election for Wakefield.

The House then adjourned.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

INDIA LOAN BILL.

On the motion for going into Committee on this bill,

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH entered into much detail with respect to the Indian expenditure, and stated his belief that no reduction could be made in the British military force in that country. He repudiated the idea of an Imperial guarantee, and thought that the existing deficit could not be made up by new taxes. The actual system of India was a chaos, from which order was in the first instance to be produced, after which useful and economical reforms might be introduced. He deprecated the reduction of the salaries of civil servants, as able men could only be induced to go to India in the expectation of making their fortunes.

Lord LYVEDON thought the local military force might be materially reduced by the establishment of a local police.

After some further discussion the bill passed through Committee.

The remaining business was then disposed of, and the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. BENTINCK took the oaths and his seat for Taunton, in the room of Mr. Labouchere, who has been raised to the Peerage.

BUILDERS' STRIKE.

Mr. E. JAMES asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he had any objection to state to the House the object and the result of a conference held with him by a deputation of the Central Association of Master Builders on Tuesday last, upon the subject of the builders' strike and nine hours' movement?

Sir G. C. LEWIS said a deputation had waited upon him with a view to get the House or the Government to arbitrate between the parties. He informed them that, in his opinion, both the House and the Government were wholly unfitted to undertake any such duty with respect to a matter upon which they must be necessarily uninformed.

THE CHILTERN HUNDREDS.

Mr. GRIFFITH asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether or not it was his intention, on the part of the Government, to grant the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds, or any of the other appointments commonly employed to vacate a seat in the House of Commons, to any member against whose return a petition was now pending, previous to or during the period of the recess, and before the reassembling of Parliament next Session?

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said he should not feel justified in refusing the Chiltern Hundreds to any hon. member merely because there was a petition pending against him. The House itself should consider any matter in connection with the petition.

CHARITABLE TRUSTS CONTINUANCE BILL.

On the motion for going into Committee on this bill,

Mr. NEWDEGATE objected to the bill on the part of the Roman Catholics of the north of England, who feared that their endowments would be brought under the management of Cardinal Wiseman and his Church instead of remaining under their own control. Cardinal Wiseman claimed, on the part of the Church, the whole disposal of those endowments, and the Roman Catholics of the north were therefore desirous that their endowments should no longer be exempted from the law of the land. He therefore moved, as an amendment, that the bill be committed that day three months.

Mr. SPOONER seconded the amendment.

Mr. HENNESSY supported the original motion.

Mr. BOWYER said Mr. Newdegate appeared in a new character as the advocate of the Roman Catholics, towards whom it was well known he entertained sentiments of the bitterest hatred. The object of the bill was to prevent the confiscation of those endowments under the Superstitious Uses Act until a plan could be devised to place them on a proper footing, and he therefore hoped the House would agree to it.

After some observations from Mr. Scully and Mr. Kinnaird,

Sir G. C. LEWIS hoped the bill—which was only a continuance one—might be allowed to pass; and they could legislate on the subject early next Session.

After a short discussion the House divided, and the numbers were—For the original motion, 70; for the amendment, 47; majority, 23.

The bill was then passed through Committee, and subsequently through its remaining stages.

DIVORCE COURTS BILL.

This bill was passed through all its stages.

On the motion of Mr. GRASBY, a new writ was ordered for the borough of Devonport, in the room of Mr. Wilson, who has accepted the appointment of Commissioner to India.

THE NINE HOURS' MOVEMENT.

As was expected, nearly all the great building establishments were closed on Monday, and every important building operation in London has been suspended. The men continue to hold out, to the number, it is said, of thirty or forty thousand; and hitherto they have conducted their cause with great order and decorum. Indeed, there has been so little feeling exhibited on either side that we cannot but hope for a speedy settlement of the difficulty by compromise. The "document," or "declaration," is the sore point, and all propositions for mediation which we have hitherto heard of are based upon its withdrawal. That once conceded, it is apprehended that there will be little difficulty in perfecting other arrangements. Among the gentlemen who have offered themselves as mediators is Mr. Marsh Nelson, an architect, who may be regarded as occupying an independent position between both parties. He has gone into the case with much care, and, as he has been in pretty constant communication with the Conference of the United Trades, it may be supposed that his views, if not exactly coincident with those of the men, are, at least, not antagonistic to them. He puts forth as the base of an arrangement two general propositions—1, the withdrawal of the declaration; and, 2, the payment by the hour at the rate of 6s. per day of ten hours for the skilled labourer, leaving it to the men to work what hours they please. These bases agreed upon, he proposes a conference between the heads of the two associations, to be presided over by an impartial chairman, in whom the public and the parties interested should have confidence. This conference would determine at what time the new arrangements should come into operation, who were to be regarded as "skilled labourers," and other details.

Another proposition has been put forth, with some degree of authority, which would probably meet with more general favour from the masters. It proceeds also upon the supposition that the declaration be withdrawn; then, that the wages be at the rate of 7d. per hour for skilled artisans, and 4½d. per hour for labourers; that the men work ten hours a day for five days in the week; and that they knock off at one o'clock on Saturdays. These are the preliminaries; then a conference is proposed, with some such well-known and esteemed men as Sir Page Wood or Lord Brougham as chairman, to settle the details.

As regards the withdrawal of the declaration, however, it by no means appears that the employers are willing to concede this preliminary. As a rule, the largest builders, and just those who it was supposed would be the most inconvenienced by the present state of things, insist most strenuously upon the declaration.

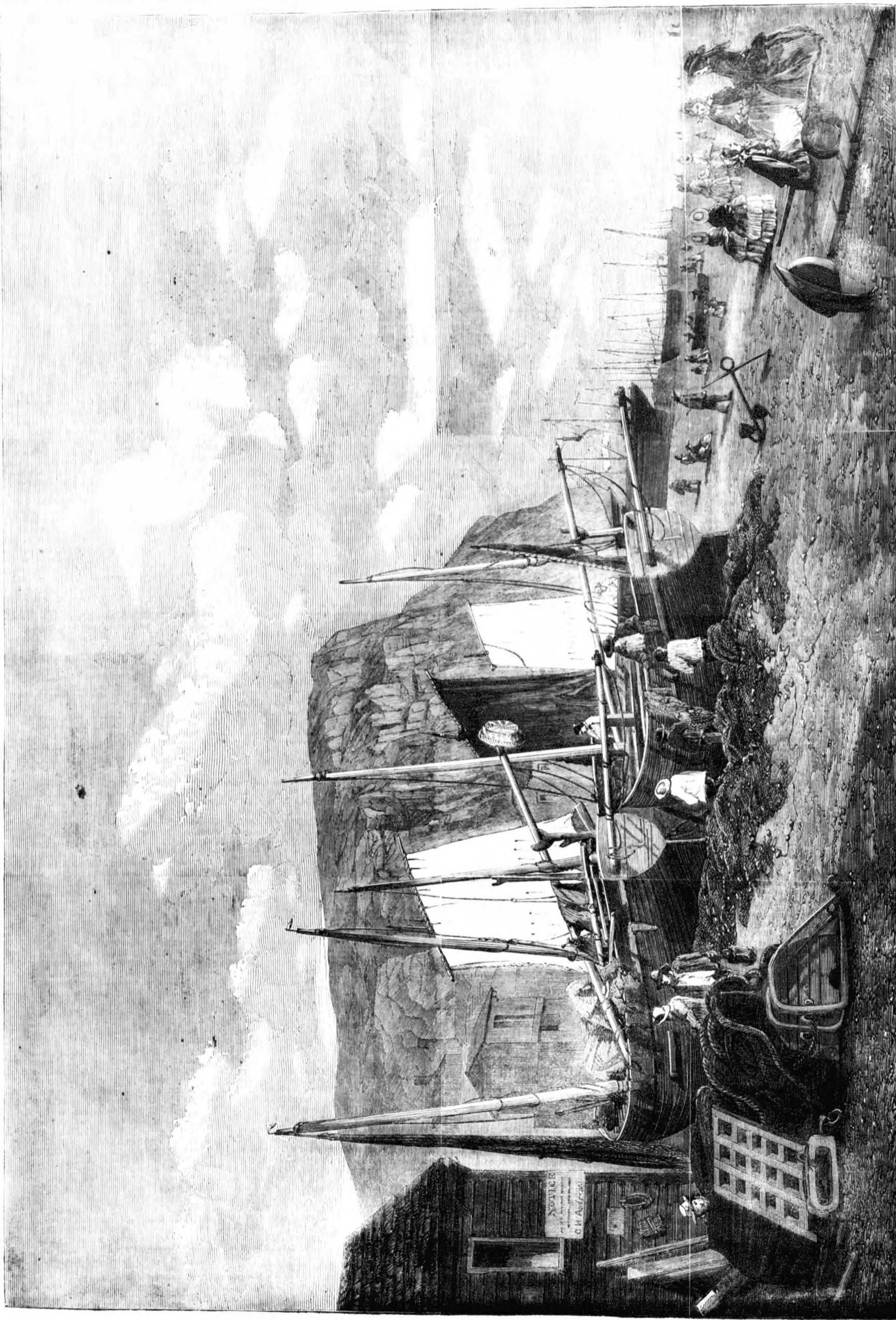
In the meanwhile, too, the master builders have not improved their position by carrying their grievance to the Home Secretary. Here are the workmen combining peacefully for a certain object, and, on the other hand, here are the masters also combining for an object which they have as good a right to try to attain as the men have to look for theirs. But the latter thought themselves justified in sending a deputation to Sir G. C. Lewis, to ask him to bring down the authority of the Legislature upon the other combination. "Could not the Government interfere by examining the laws which regulate the trade societies?" asked the deputation. The questioner was duly snubbed by Sir George C. Lewis; his reply to the deputation was that, while he deeply regretted that the strike should have taken place, he did not see how the Government could interfere with the arrangements between masters and men. Strikes, at all times, were most undesirable; but while the law was maintained the Government, of course, could not interfere.

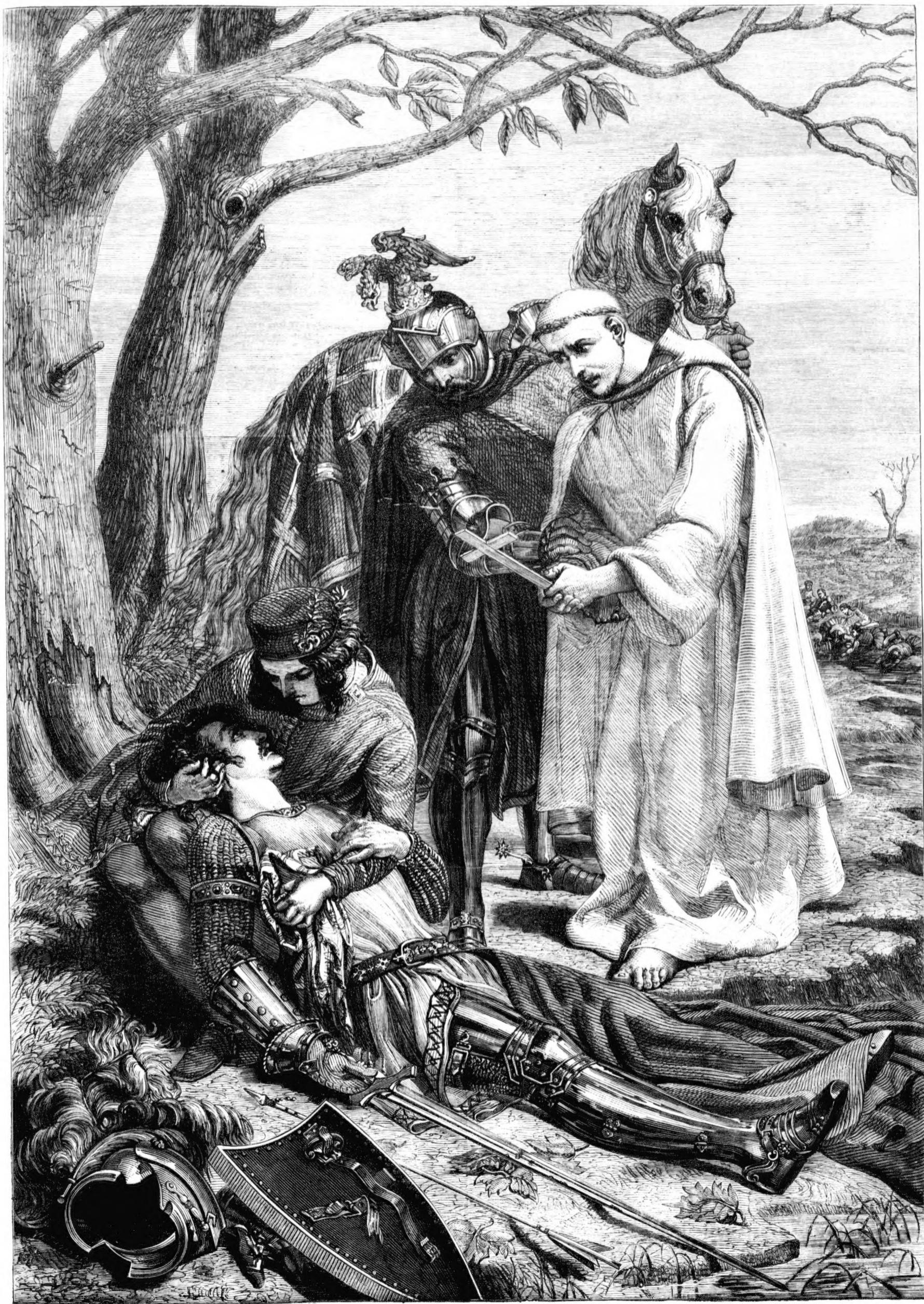
A notice posted outside Messrs. Trollope's works on Tuesday announced that they required no more painters, having obtained sufficient men in that particular branch to suit their present requirements. The smiths, it was believed, would go in, and the services of a few labourers have been accepted; and all these men—painters, smiths, and labourers—are to work the ten hours and pledge themselves under the declaration. It had been suggested that whenever one set of tradesmen went to work at Messrs. Trollope's the other builders might, under their resolution, open their doors to the same branch; but at a meeting of the Central Association it was determined not to adopt that course at present, at all events.

Among other works, the strike has arrested the progress of the contract works at Woolwich, but the Royal Engineer Department immediately adopted measures for carrying on a portion of the works under urgent demand—namely, Sir William Armstrong's rifled-ordnance factory, under contract for erection by Messrs. Lucas Brothers. These buildings are already roofed in, and were fast approaching completion. A large portion of the machinery has arrived from Manchester and Scotland, in readiness for fitting; and consequently any delay was of importance. An abundance of tools having been supplied from the military store department, Captain Dunford's company of Royal Engineers, consisting of one hundred and twenty competent artificers, arrived at Woolwich on Monday evening from Brompton barracks, and commenced their duties. Two other companies of Royal Engineers were placed under orders to join from Aldershot, which will avert any evil from the strike in that department.

THE BEACH AT HASTINGS.

The swells who annually visit St. Leonards seldom migrate so far east as the old town of Hastings; and yet they might find it a pleasant way of spending a morning to go and have a crack with the fishermen there, for they are an intelligent, civil race, have had many adventures worth hearing, and are not at all backward in talking to strangers. The old men are rather fond of dwelling upon the exploits of their youth; and, if you treat them to a jug of ale and furnish them with tobacco, you may hear anecdotes of the old smuggling days which would furnish materials for a novel. The fisherman's is an old craft at Hastings, and has been for centuries the principal employment of the poor; and from information gained upon the spot we have learned that in the main it is now carried on by families whose names may be traced in the borough records for many hundred years back. The number of boats employed in the fishing business is about a hundred, varying in value from £200 to £1000. Some are employed in trawling, which is carried on from the middle of July to the end of September, and again from November to April; others in mackerel-fishing from January to July; and others in fishing for herrings from September to December. Some of the boats stretch out in search of fish to the Land's End. We recognise in the Engraving on the next page a well-known and favourite spot of ours. Whilst the swells were promenading and coqueting on the Parade we have sat for hours under the shadow of the hill, which appears as a background, and listened to some old fisherman who narrated to us stories of the olden time when Hastings was not so enlarged as it is now, and when St. Leonards was not at all. On the beach there is a neat little church for fishermen, in the services of which we have often joined. In the morning it is not very well attended, for your fisherman, after the labours of the week, likes in the morning to lie or stroll on the beach and look listlessly at the sea, but in the evening we generally found it full. Sir Cloudesley Shovel was born at Hastings, and no doubt in the course of his history Hastings has furnished many other naval heroes known less to fame, for Hastings is a cinque port, and used to contribute ships and men for the service of the Crown, and in later times many a sailor has been kidnapped by the press-gang or gone voluntarily to serve on board our men-of-war.





"THE DEATH OF LARA."—(FROM THE FRESCO, BY G. W. COATS, IN THE NEW PALACE AT WESTMINSTER.)

THE DEATH OF LARA.

MR COPE is one of our best fresco-painters. There are none, indeed, with the exceptions of Messrs. Herbert, Dyce, and Macleish, who may for a moment dispute with him the palm of supremacy in that peculiar and difficult branch of pictorial art. Still, we respectfully submit that Mr. Cope, with all his executive ability, stands greatly in need of an "editor" or adviser of some kind, to guide him in his choice of subjects. Considering the monumental position frescoes are intended to occupy, it seems to us they should invariably be based upon subjects of historic dignity, appropriate, if possible, to the character of the edifice containing them—certainly, far removed from all contagion of the ephemeral or the frivolous. Mr. Cope, being commissioned to paint a fresco for the National Palace of Westminster, had surely a sufficiently wide field to select from in the range of English history. A legion of subjects, it would be thought, in apt connection with the establishment of our laws and liberties, all eminently susceptible of picturesque treatment, would have suggested themselves immediately. If they ever did so, they could have found little favour in the eyes of Mr. Cope, for he has rejected them all, and preferred to bewilder posterity by a pictorial immortalisation of the Death of Lara. Now, in the name of all that is congruous and consistent, what business has Lara, living or dying, within the walls of the Legislative Palace of Great Britain? The story to which the moribund warrior owes his phantom existence is not even a fair sample of classic English literature. It is an inflated melodramatic fiction, written, it is true, by a poet of whom we are justly proud, but three-fourths of whose works (this poem included) were loosely and carelessly written, and would have been either amended or cancelled by their author had he lived beyond the middle period of man's life. Byron is, perhaps, the very last celebrity we should fix upon as a representative man for English letters. "Lara" is about the last of his poems we should select as a fair specimen of his never fully-developed powers. It is a mere album story, in fact; and but little more entitled to such enduring honours as have been paid to it by Mr. Cope than the dramatic history of "The Miller and his Men" or "The Adventures of Goody Two Shoes."

Having objected to Mr. Cope's "Major" to our heart's content, we are bound to admit that his picture is a very able one. The incident illustrated (passing over the objection that it had no right to be illustrated at all under such circumstances) is highly dramatic and touching. The artist has fully entered into the spirit of the scene. The composition, characters, and expression are undeniably good. But we must return to our old grievance. What right has it here? *Que diable allait-il faire dans cette galère?* Who was Lara? Where did he come from? When did he live? Where did he die? There is such a shocking absence of chronology and geography in the story that it makes us half suspect Mr. Cope has been playing off a grave joke on the nation, by selecting, for the decoration of a national assembly, a subject more utterly devoid of nationality than any other in the whole range of poetry. We wonder what Mr. Macaulay's prematurely celebrated New Zealander will think of this mural painting when he comes to dig up the ruins of London. He will be puzzled to know whether it represents "The Finding of Harold," "The Death of the Black Prince," or that of Cœur de Lion. We dare be bound that, in the absence of definite information on the subject, he will go to his grave without a suspicion that he has merely unearthed a pictorial representation of "The Death of Lara."

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1859.

MAZZINI ON IMPERIALISM.

The letter of Mazzini this week on the affairs of Italy and the Emperor is one of the most remarkable of his effusions. We see from it how bitter must be the feelings of the Italian liberals who, unlike Mazzini, believed in their liberator all along; how great the tribulation that may yet be expected in the South; and how dangerous the whole complication to the peace of Europe. We have never been partisans of Mazzini ourselves, but we have always honoured his enthusiasm and utility, and we commend his present address to careful perusal, even while about to dispute some of its conclusions.

We cannot deny, however, in the first place, that Mazzini is probably right in supposing Napoleon to have ulterior designs for the advancement of his power—designs which may involve danger to England. We have often hinted as much in these columns, and the line we take this week on the disarming question is much affected by our feeling on the subject. Many ominous movements of his point in that direction, and suggest a dismissal of all the incredulity as to invasion and the indifference as to forces which too long prevailed in this kingdom. We are with Mazzini, too, in believing that England cannot shake herself clear from the Continent altogether, if she wishes it. Observe how our history has been affected by the Continent all along—in the cases of the Norman Conquest, the Plantagenet alliances and wars, the Revolution of 1688, down to the time when the French movement of '30 set a Reform agitation going amongst us. We must be influenced by Europe, do what we will, and should therefore always be ready with a policy whenever a European complication arises. The "intervention" we have so often deprecated is an abuse of this natural interest of the country in things Continental—as when persons would have us propagate Protestantism or political change in countries where nothing fairly entitles us to do so, and the attempt only serves to make us neglect our domestic concerns. This is quite another thing from declining to have any share in supporting the balance of power, in the large sense, of which we are ourselves a part, and the disturbance of which shakes us whether we will or no. We can, indeed, easily fancy a crisis in which, if two Powers joined to divide the possessions of the rest, it would be our duty to

defend the one first threatened, for the sake of the whole order of things, and ultimately of ourselves.

But, if we understand Mazzini aright, he does not approve the "neutrality" which we maintained in the late French and Austrian struggle; and here it is we differ from him. We cannot conceive what else there was for us to do. True, Napoleon was virtually the aggressor, and it was Imperialism in the long run that was to benefit by his acts. But how could we defend the rival Imperialism, which could only be defended *as a whole*, and therefore, as a system, even more distasteful to the English public than that of France itself? Were we to proclaim that our supreme mission was to oppose Bonaparte simply as Bonaparte? Surely our mission is nothing of the kind. We may dislike the way he got power, and distrust the use he sometimes puts it to. But we cannot deny him the rights of his position when it has any rights; and, if he chose to help the Sardinians at their own request in a local war, the fact that we did not think his motives pure could not alone justify us in taking the field against him. Politics cannot be carried on nowadays, we are afraid, in any such sublime spirit of abstract justice; and some mixtures of bad and good must be tolerated in them, as in life.

This, we repeat, is our difference of opinion with Mazzini. And we fear, too, that his method for us to use in an anti-Imperialist crusade is rather a wild one. He would have us, we believe, raise the "nationalities" everywhere in the cause. But there is an element of good in Imperialism after all, the element of government by which it combines and organises races, as in early ages it did in our own island. Does not Guizot tell us with regard to Mazzini's own land that its want of Imperialism in the middle ages is one great cause of its division now? Mazzini, we fancy, believes too strongly in democracy, merely as democracy, and expects from it more than it can yield. Now, we are for checking the evils of Imperialism as strongly as he is. But we look to other things to do it than simple uprisings on ideal principles. These fail because the mass is not capable of organising their results. Get, however, through classes and bodies, through commerce and literature, some machinery for interposing between despotism and mob, and then you may expect to be able to modify Imperialism without risking the injury of any good there is in it. Europe, we suspect, will never do much more, and may damage the prospect of doing even that by trying suddenly higher flights. Yet, while we think the Italian patriot too daring in his suggestions as to the way in which French and other Imperialism should be resisted by England, we thank him for keeping alive the wholesome resolution existing amongst us to resist it to the death.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, the Prince Consort, the Princess Alice, and other members of the Royal family, intend to remain at Osborne until Monday, the 29th instant, when they will depart for Balmoral, to pass three weeks or a month at the Highland Palace.

THE GRAND DUKE CONSTANTINE landed at Ryde on Saturday evening from the Russian frigate Swetland. He was received by Baron Brunnow. The Prince Consort paid a visit on Monday evening to his Imperial Highness at the Pier Hotel.

A NEW DOCK WAS OPENED AT SILLOTH on Wednesday week with great ceremony, and in the presence of about 10,000 persons, Sir James Graham presiding.

DR. G. H. VON SHUBERT, of Munich, the former friend and tutor of the late Duchess of Orleans, has just published his memoirs of the deceased Princess. The work is chiefly made up of original letters, some of which are most charming in their truthfulness and simplicity.

THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OF THE NORFOLK AND NORWICH MUSICAL FESTIVAL have selected M. Benedict to fill the post of conductor, and have requested him to produce some novelty of his own composition for the next festival. M. Benedict has intimated his intention of writing a cantata.

THE RIGHT HON. JAMES WILSON has consented to go to India as a member of Council, and also as Chancellor of the Indian Exchequer. Mr. Wilson's position towards the Governor-General and the Cabinet in the latter capacity will be similar to that which the Chancellor of the Exchequer bears at home to the Government and the Cabinet. The Vice-Presidency has been offered to Mr. More O'Ferrall, but we understand that he has declined the offer.

A ROMAN VILLA HAS BEEN DISCOVERED, by Mr. W. Spickernell, at Carisbrooke, in the Isle of Wight. It is in the valley which extends to Bowcombe, below the castle and near the village of Carisbrooke.

BRANKSEA ISLAND, the property lately belonging to Colonel Waugh, of the London and Eastern Banking Company notoriety, has again been offered for sale. As the reserve price was £50,000, and only £45,500 was bid, the property was withdrawn. On a previous occasion £70,000 was bid, but the reserve price was then £100,000.

MADAME GOLDSCHMIDT is about to resume concert-singing, and to take a tour in Ireland, accompanied by Herr Joachim.

A WEDDING PARTY, on arriving at the parish church of Mirfield, found that the banns certificate was missing, and the groom and his man had to run off to Heckmondwike to obtain it. They accomplished the distance, six miles, in fifty minutes, returning just in time for the performance of the ceremony.

THE KING OF SARDINIA (says the *Court Journal*, a wonderful storyteller) is said to have been so horrorstruck when he heard of the peace concluded between the two Emperors that he attempted to commit suicide!

TOUSSOUN PACHA, son of his Highness the Pacha of Egypt, was presented to her Majesty at Osborne on Saturday.

MR. F. MAYNARD, on behalf of the liquidators of the Western Bank of London, announces that a return of £20 per share will be made on the 22nd inst. He states—"I have no doubt whatever that I shall have the pleasure of the full accomplishment of the assurance that upwards of £40 will be returned, of which this is the first instalment."

THERE ARE IN ENGLAND 45 Protestant and 4 Popish reformatories, and in Scotland 26 reformatories. 329 boys and girls can be accommodated in the English and 930 in the Scottish reformatories. The number actually accommodated was in England 2313, and in Scotland 878 boys and girls.

THE TIME IS NOW AT HAND (August and September) about which railway accidents have generally occurred in great numbers. "Railway companies will not, therefore, be displeased if we (*Herald*) remind them of it, and recommend them to impress on their officials and men, if possible, an increased care."

A MONUMENT raised in remembrance of the victory gained on the field of Minden on August 1, 1759, over the French by the united troops of England, Prussia, Hanover, Hesse Cassel, Saxe-Gotha, Brunswick, and Schleswig-Holstein Lippe, was inaugurated on the centenary of the event, the 1st inst. The monument is raised on the battle-field.

THE EX-BARON PENNEPATHER died on Sunday at his late residence near Clonmel.

THE ELDEST SON OF MR. HUGHES, the author of "Tom Brown's School-days," was drowned at Sunbury while boating on Saturday.

THREE HUNDRED SPARROWS were recently shipped from England for New Zealand. At particular seasons the country is invaded by armies of caterpillars, which clear off the grain crops as completely as if mowed with the scythe. The birds are sent over with a view of counteracting this plague. The pheasant has already been acclimated in the north.

TWO MEN QUARRELED in a public-house near Wrexham, and left the house to "fight it out." In half an hour one of them was taken up dead.

THE GOVERNMENT have resolved to erect a battery on the island of Inchkeith, for the protection of the Firth of Forth, "in the confidence that the city of Edinburgh will produce a corps competent to man and work the guns." A regiment of volunteer artillery is at present in course of organisation.

A BABY SHOW is to come off at Sandgate, Penrith, in a few weeks. The children are to belong to Penrith. First, second, and third prizes will be given. The ages must be under two years.

THE CEREMONY OF INAUGURATING THE CHAMBERS INSTITUTION AT PEEBLES—the gift of Mr. William Chambers to his native town—took place with much ceremony on Monday last.

THE PARISIANS will not be deprived of M. Roger's services on the stage, after all. The amputation was effected below the elbow, and a surgical instrument-maker has promised to make him an artificial hand and wrist capable of nearly all the natural movements.

DR. NORMANDY'S APPARATUS for distilling fresh from sea water has been tried, and found to be so satisfactory that it will be used henceforth on board all passenger-ships, by positive order of the Privy Council.

THE TRIAL OF DR. SMETHURST for the murder of Isabella Bankes, at Richmond, is to be resumed at the Central Criminal Court on Monday next.

THE HEAVY RAINS ON SUNDAY flooded many parts of Yorkshire and Lancashire. At Todmorden the "fall" was remarkably heavy, and considerable damage was done.

PRINCE LOUIS OF BAVARIA, brother of the Empress of Austria, is about to marry (moronzanically) Marie Mendel, a Jewess, the daughter of a jeweller. The lady will assume the title of Baroness de Walthersee.

THE STRIKE AMONG THE GASMEN, which at one moment threatened the metropolis with consequences of the most serious character, has terminated, so far as the Chartered Gas Light and Coke Company is concerned, in the complete surrender of the men.

A VACANCY has taken place among the Naval Knights, at Windsor by the demise of Lieutenant George Hurst, R.N., who died on Saturday last at his residence at Southsea. The gallant officer was appointed in 1834.

MR. DANIEL OWEN MADDYN, the author of "Chiefs of Parties," died in Dublin on Saturday last.

DAVID HUGHES, attorney, of Gresham-street, who absconded some time ago, leaving liabilities to the amount of £150,000, has been arrested in Australia. His "misappropriations" amount to forty thousand pounds, we hear.

SIX GUNS, weighing thirty tons, with gun-carriages, platforms, &c., cases of powder, shot and shell, were landed at North Shields, on Tuesday, for the defences of Tynemouth, which are rapidly approaching completion.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

In the library of the House of Commons there is a model on a large scale of Mr. Scott's proposed new Foreign Office. This model, through the kindness of a friend, I have had an opportunity of examining, and the longer I looked the more I admired. This I take to be significant of the excellency of the design. Your garish, showy, pretentious design strikes at first sight, and after a time disgusts, whilst real excellence grows with acquaintance. But, alas! this noble design will not be adopted, I fear, for Lord Palmerston is in power, and his Lordship hates Gothic architecture as a certain person is said to hate holy water; and, further, I fear the House of Commons sympathises with the noble Lord, for when his Lordship opened his battery against the Gothic style the other day he was lustily cheered by the House. Puseyites affect Gothic architecture, you know. And all good Protestants are summoned to oppose this Gothic design as part of a fanatical attempt upon our Protestant institutions. You will probably say this is too absurd to be true. Too absurd! Is there anything too absurd for some people? Read the *Morning Star* of the 10th instant. "Church! Church! Church!" says the *Star*, "is the beginning, middle, and end of this sectarian zeal for Gothic architecture." Too absurd! Why, there are people, I will venture to say, who would not sleep under Gothic roof lest they should rise in the morning believers in transubstantiation, or unconsciously invoke the Virgin Mary in their dreams. Too absurd! There is nothing too absurd for blockheads.

Apropos of Lord Palmerston, I heard the other day a story which, as it shows the estimation in which his Lordship is held amongst the people on the Continent, and is too good to be lost, I will narrate. There is a project afoot to make a line of railway in Sweden, and, in the course of a conversation between some English and foreign merchants, the Englishmen observed that it would be necessary to have an English company, or no Englishman would subscribe his capital. To this the Swedes did not object; but, they said that the company must be under Swedish law. "Why?" asked the English engineer. "Well! you will think it very absurd," replied a Swede; "but it is the general opinion here that, if we were under English law and any dispute were to arise, Lord Palmerston would send a couple of frigates and blow up Stockholm."

The general topic of talk in the clubs is the Pomfret petition business. The petitioner is Mr. Childers, son of a former member of the House. Mr. C. contested Pomfret against Mr. Overend, Q.C., and was defeated. He then presented a petition praying for a scrutiny; but, at the instance of Mr. Overend's agent, Mr. Rose, of the firm of Baxter, Rose, and Norton, agreed to refer the matter to Lord March, both parties binding themselves to abide by the noble Lord's decision. In consequence of this agreement the petition was withdrawn, and then, and not till then, Mr. Childers discovered that, according to Mr. Rose's and Mr. Overend's view, it was not to be the question of "Who was to have the seat?" that was to be referred, but certain other "matters arising out of the petition." And Mr. Overend and his agent positively refused to refer the question of the seat to arbitration. This refusal, of course, was a staggerer to Mr. Childers, as he had withdrawn the petition, and could not present it again. Mr. Bright has presented a petition stating all the facts to the House, and praying an inquiry, and the House has appointed a Committee; but it seems to me impossible that this Committee can come to any satisfactory resolution, for it does not appear to be a case for the House to deal with at all. It is rather a question for a committee of private gentlemen to deal with—a sort of court of honour. That Mr. Overend may have been perfectly innocent in the matter is not at all unlikely, for he was away and left the business entirely in the hands of Mr. Rose. The truth is, as it seems to me, the two agents have been playing a game of skill. A wanted to draw B into a reference of the question about the seat, but he did not like to be too explicit lest he should frighten B. B, seeing his object, consents to the arrangement, and draws up an agreement vague enough, as he thought, to allow of escape, but which, in the opinion of A, was sufficiently binding. The agreement was signed, the petition was withdrawn, and A demands that the question of the seat be referred. "Question of the seat! Why, we never dreamt of referring that. See, there's nothing in the agreement about the seat." And A finds himself checkmated.

The present strike of the operatives in the building trade, though undeniably deeply to be regretted, yet presents itself in certain aspects in favourable contrast to the "turn-outs" in the manufacturing districts which a few years ago endangered the peace of society. In these last-mentioned, as printed by the union associative newspaper reporter, or as represented in the highly-wrought canvas of Mrs. Gaskell's genius, there was a certain recklessness, an indifference to consequences, and a savagely antagonistic spirit which at one time threatened the most serious results; the laws were set at nought, the peace was broken, and human life reckoned but of little account. The feeling between masters and men was not merely a business difference which required adjusting, but a personal and class hatred which involved the gravest interests, and in some cases imperatively demanded Government interference. So far as matters have hitherto gone, the men now on strike, acting doubtless under the guidance of those who, under the title of the Conference, act as their leaders, have behaved in an exemplary manner. Quietly, peacefully, and good-humouredly they hold out for what they consider their rights, and occasional intoxication is the heaviest crime to be laid to their charge. It is, however, to be remembered that hitherto matters have been to a great extent favourable to them; the time of year is one when fuel, extra clothing, and many other actual winter necessities of life are unneeded. Contributions from their provincial brethren have been lavish, and the allowance granted them from the Conference has been proportionately large; moreover, from that portion of the public—and it is a large portion—which invariably, from an inexplicable but thoroughly English feeling, favours the weaker side, they have received sympathy, and doubtless, support, more especially as the opinion is pretty general that the masters, in combining to insist on the signatures to the document of which we have heard so much, have acted almost, if not quite, as foolishly as the men. The resolution arrived at by the Government, who, while deplored the strike, have declined to interfere between employers and employed, is highly commendable. A declaration on either side would have been

made much of by the opposite party, and might have been turned to worst purposes. From what is to be gathered from the latest news, however, and looking at the great fact that the leaders of the party on this occasion are apparently not mere frothy demagogues, now preferring all hazards to their own temporary popularity, least, saving men, whether in error or not, yet working honestly and in the interest of one straightforward and intelligible object, we may possibly, perhaps before these lines are in print, the strike has at an end, having resulted in a better understanding for the future between the men and their employers.

I have once or twice expatiated in this column on the case of Mr. Barber, the attorney, who was prosecuted for will-forging, condemned, tried, subjected to a series of atrocious ignominies and cruelties, proved innocent, pardoned for having committed no crime, set free in Norfolk Island, and told to find his way home from that eligible place; the best manner he could. I suppose that this is the last time this villain's case will afford matter for comment, as he has at length exacted a tardy recompence for all his sufferings in the shape of a grant of five thousand pounds, which was voted him last week in the House of Commons. It is needless to say that Mr. Barber's conviction was as ruin. No persons taking the trouble to make themselves acquainted with his story but must admit that at his trial he was the victim of circumstances; during his banishment the victim of the grossest inhumanity and tyranny; but the result—eternal ruin—is the same. Five thousand pounds! One hundred and fifty pounds a year is but poor compensation for blasted name, broken health, and a series of years passed in cleaning the cesspools of the convicts in Norfolk Island!

The presentation to the Countess of Shrewsbury of a marble bust of her husband by the factory operatives of the north of England is a noteworthy fact. The position of Lord Shrewsbury is a curious one: he is supposed to have no status as a politician; is but an indifferent orator; has never held office, and is visibly allied to no party; and yet certain matters he is said to be potential. In him, if one may believe current rumour, is vested all the ecclesiastical patronage of the present Government. He is the bestower of silk aprons, the appointer of prelatial chairs; and his thoughts are turned to matters temporal as well as spiritual, for report names him as the original suggester of the "Cambridge House Conspiracy," and as the warmest advocate and final carrier-in-of-effect of the renewed relations between the houses of Palmerston and Russell. To the outer world he is known as the head of the Evangelical party, the butt of the *Saturday Review*, and the unflinching, uncompromising friend and advocate of the working man. It was to him in this latter character that the factory operatives did honour: there his truth, sincerity, and earnest zeal are unquestionable. No amount of work, of ribaldry, of obloquy, has turned him from his path. His time, energies, and fortune have alike been devoted to the furtherance of this end; and one may fairly believe that the testimonial presented to him on Saturday will be more valued by him, as showing an appreciation of his services by those for whom he has laboured, than any richer gift. He is not faultless; often weak, occasionally bigoted; but, these shortcomings granted, it cannot be denied that the present century has not produced a more thoroughly earnest philanthropist than the Earl of Shrewsbury.

It is astonishing in these days of universal novel-writing to find how few really good books are brought out. Taxed by friends passing their lives away in country houses to send them an amusing novel, one reads Mudie's list through and through, and finally, in despair, pitches a hazard on one with the most promising title. The names of the publishers you will find to be your best guides. There are, of course, exceptions to every rule, but you can scarcely go wrong when you read a book issued by Messrs. Blackwood, Messrs. Chapman and Hall, or Messrs. Smith and Elder. Most of their novels are above the ordinary stamp. The publishers have a reputation to lose, and their professional readers—"tasters," as Mr. Carlyle calls them,—are gentlemen of education and knowledge of the world. Beware, oh! beware, of novels published "on commission," or on the "half-profit" system, the brain-skimmings of those literary amateurs whom Messrs. Saunders and Otley, Skeet and Evelyn, delight to honour. Mr. Bentley and Messrs. Hurst and Blackett stick pretty generally to the old-fashioned conventional three-volume; and Mr. Parker (except when he relaxes into Whyte-Melvilleisms) is the medium for conveying the record of the loves of High Church young ladies and consumptive curates to an admiring world. Within the past few years what novels, except the "Scenes of Clerical Life," "Adam Bede," "John Halifax," and "Guy Livingstone," have created any real sensation? It is pleasant to be able to add a new name to the little list. "The Ordeal of Richard Feverel," by George Meredith, is a very remarkable book. The ordinary novel-reader, who knows the exact place in the first half of the first volume where his excitement should come in, will probably throw aside this book in disgust. It is by no means *ad captandum*; but there is a quaint, caviare dash even about the very earliest pages which will at once tickle the palate of the literary gourmand, leaving him afterwards to revel in a feast of scholarly writing, worldly knowledge, and singularly well-written descriptions of nature, imbued with a strong poetic tinge. It is not a book to be placed in the hands of a very young girl, being one in which spades receive their original cognomen, and in which many curious subjects are discussed freely. But, though reedy, they are healthily treated. There is no veiled prurience, none of that horrible hinting at the improper which to sensible people is the sine, and to fools the charm, of so many modern books. Better service made openly repulsive in all its crapulous detail than alluring by the display of a well-turned ankle or the inch-high lifting of a jupon. Mr. Meredith writes strongly, healthily, and well; he has studied the world, and he dares to give the world the result of his study. This book shows him as a man in earnest with his subject, but relieving his earnestness with wit which never degenerates into frivolity, and with humour which, though occasionally broad, is never coarse. The reading world will be anxious for his next work. By the way, why does not Sir Austin Feverel (who is an infinitely superior kind of Mr. Paxton) collect and publish his aphorisms? Judging from these specimens, they would be very valuable.

Several of those gentlemen who were the most frequent contributors to the defunct "Household Words" are talking of republishing their papers in a collected form. First in the field is Mr. Hollingshead, an author who for some time has anonymously contributed in the highest degree to the delight of the reading public. The City has afforded a great field for his observation, and he is thoroughly conversant with all its intricacies, frauds, and fallacies. The book, which will appear about the end of September, will be called "Under Bow Bells," and will contain a selection of papers having a connecting City interest. In accordance with the leading principle of the journal in which the articles originally appeared, the author has endeavoured to retain some fancy and imagination, even when dealing with the driest subjects.

In reference to a paragraph in my article of the week before last, it is but justice to Mr. Tom Taylor to say that a perusal of Mr. Davies' "Our Town" completely sets at rest the question of any affinity between it and "The Contested Election."

A daily contemporary states that Mr. Hotten's "Dictionary of Slang" has been so successful that he is about preparing a second edition, in which he will be assisted by "Lord Strangford, Mr. M. Wilkes, Mr. Stirling, and other of the fashionable literati who frequent Chancery Lane." Bravo, Jéâmes! Very nice, indeed! But, surely, for a slang Dictionary, better coadjutors would have been Lord R. Croft, stunning Sir Joseph Banks, the Uxbridge Pet, Bill the Cabman, and other fashionables who frequent the Haymarket.

THE NEW PEER.—Mr. Labouchere's title will be Baron Taunton, which he represented in the House of Commons for more than thirty years. The *Economist* tells a story much to the credit of Lord Taunton. "When the peers were in their infancy it was supposed that they would injure the State through which or near which they ran, and Mr. Labou here's father received the compensation of £30,000 for an imaginary detriment to his property of this sort. After his death his son, finding that there was no injury to the estate from the vicinity of the railway, but the contrary, refunded the £30,000."

THE GREAT EASTERN.

THE engineer who first conceived the project of building a ship like the Great Eastern, the naval architect who carried that project into its full execution, and the capitalists who subscribed their money, may congratulate themselves upon the fact that the great ship is at last ready for sea. On Monday the completion of this magnificent vessel was formally celebrated at a banquet on board the ship, honoured by the presence of many of the members of both Houses and some of the most distinguished engineers and scientific men in the kingdom.

Many difficulties and obstacles impeded the progress of the work. There were scientific difficulties, commercial difficulties, monetary mishaps, and some mechanical blunders. We all remember the protracted agonies of the launch, the disappointing bulletins from day to day—announcing now a progress of six inches, now a standstill of six hours—the jokes, the criticisms, and the final sense of relief when it was announced that the Leviathan was at length afloat in Deptford Creek. But then it seemed as if the real troubles of the undertaking were only about to begin. The capital had been expended, the public refused to advance any more money; and, if the directors wished their ship to be anything but a helpless, unfinished carcass, £300,000 more must be raised. Not without difficulty and delay the money was found, and the ship is finished.

The rapidity with which her internal fittings have been completed is not the least remarkable fact in the ship's most remarkable history. Four or five weeks ago, and only one or two of the six masts were fixed, the bulwarks had not been quite completed, the hull wanted painting, the decks were piled with indescribable lumber of all kinds, while the labyrinth of cabins and saloons below seemed only so many dirty storehouses for unfinished joinery. On Monday she wore a very different appearance. The deck had been cleared to man-of-war order, and not even a stray rope's end broke the wonderful effect produced by its immense expanse. Her fleet of small boats (about the size of sailing-cutters) hung at the davits, ten on each side. The whole vessel had been painted, the saloons finished, the cabins decorated, and even furnished. The masts were fixed and rigged with the exception of the yards, which are sent up by this time. The three centre square-rigged masts are of iron. Each is made of hollow wrought iron in eight-feet lengths, strengthened inside by diaphragms of the same material. Between the joints, as they were bolted together, was placed a pad of vulcanised indiarubber, which gives a spring and buoyancy to the whole spar greater than wood, while at the same time retaining all the strength of the iron. The breaking strain of the six shrouds to each of these masts is over 300 tons, which gives ample security for the masts being properly supported, as the weight of each is only 22 tons. On deck are four small steam winches or engines, each of which works a pair of cranes on both sides of the vessel. By this mechanism 5000 tons of coal can be hoisted into the vessel in twenty-four hours. Thus the grave objections of those who speculated on the loss of time required to load the great ship are done away with. The chief saloons—all save one—have only been fitted to a certain extent in a temporary manner. The fittings are exceedingly handsome and substantial, but the decorations of the huge iron walls and girders have been reserved until after her first trip, and are now only painted of a plain white. The absence of elaborate decoration in them, however, is amply compensated in the chief saloon, which has been finished to show the superb style in which the whole will be decorated when the Great Eastern begins running to the East. On this saloon the decorator has lavished his utmost efforts. Whether the fine traceries of gold and colour are examined in detail, or whether one chooses to judge by the tone and effect of the whole apartment, the decision is equally favourable. It is said that the mirrors, gilding, carpeting, and silk curtains for this apartment alone cost £3000. In the berths no attempt is made at costly decoration, though the fittings are good and sufficiently luxurious. The berths are arranged in three classes—those for parties of six or eight (and these are large rooms), those for parties of four, and the rest in the usual style of double cabins. All are very roomy as cabins go—very lofty, well lit, and those on the outer sides exceedingly well ventilated. On the lower deck the berths are even larger, lofter, and more commodious than those in the upper. Both the berths and saloons here are, in fact, almost unnecessarily high, having very nearly fifteen feet in the clear. The kitchens, pantries, and sculleries are all on the same extensive scale, and fitted with all culinary requisites. The icehouse holds upwards of 100 tons of ice, and the wine-vaults already contain wine enough to form a good freight for an Oporto trader.

The great feature of the day was the trial of the screw and paddle engines for the first time. It is quite impossible by mere verbal description to convey an adequate idea of the colossal proportions of both these sets of engines. The paddle-engines consist of four oscillating cylinders, of 74 inches diameter and 14 feet stroke. Each pair of cylinders, with its crank, condenser, and air-pump, forms in itself a complete and separate engine, capable of easy disconnection from the other three, so that the whole is a combination of four engines. They work up to an indicated power of 3000 horses of 33,000lb. when working 11 strokes per minute with steam in the boiler at 15lb., the expansion-valve cutting off at one-third of the stroke. All the parts, however, are so constructed that they will work smoothly either at eight strokes per minute at 25lb. without expansion (beyond what is unavoidably effected in the slides), or at 16 strokes a minute with the expansion-valve cutting off at one quarter of the stroke. Under the latter circumstances the paddle-engines alone would give an indicated power of 5000 horses. The boilers are immensely strong, and have been tested to double the pressure they are required to bear. They are capable of containing 150 tons of water.

The screw-engines are constructed on the same improved principles. They have four cylinders of 84 inches diameter and four feet stroke. The cylinders are capable of being worked together or separately. When working 45 strokes a minute, with steam on at 15lb., and cutting off at one-third of the stroke, these engines give an indicated power of 4400 horses; but at 55 strokes a minute, steam on at 25lb., and cutting off at one-quarter of the stroke, the power will reach to 6500 horses. Thus the united efforts of both screw and paddle engines will drive the immense vessel through the water with a power of no less than 12,000 horses. The screw-engine boilers are in three distinct sets. Their weight is 362 tons, and their capacity for water 270 tons. The probable consumption of coal when both engines are at full work will average 250 tons a day.

Steam was got up in the paddle-engines at half-past one. At that time all the visitors were on board, and the engine-room and hatches, in spite of the heat, were crowded with lookers-on. Among these were the Marquis of Westminster, the Earl of Shrewsbury, Lord Churston, the Earl of Eilesmere, Lord Stanley, Lord Redesdale, the Marquis of Stafford, Viscount Canterbury, Lord Adolphus Vane Tempest, the Lord Advocate of Scotland, Right Hon. W. Napier, Sir Joseph Paxton, Mr. Bright, Lieut.-Col. Cecil Forester, Mr. Ayrton, Hon. H. F. Berkeley, Mr. Walpole, Sir Charles Napier, Colonel Sykes, Mr. Cowper, Mr. Herbert Ingram, Sir J. V. Shelly, Sir De Lucy Evans, the Lord Mayor, Sir John Ronnie, Sir Richard Bethell, Mr. Penn, Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Yates (secretary of the old company), Sir S. M. Peto, Mr. Robert Stephenson, &c. Mr. Brunel was prevented by indisposition from being present.

The first movement of the gigantic cranks and cylinders of the paddle-engines was made at half-past one, when the great masses slowly rose and fell as noiselessly as the engines of a Greenwich boat, but exerting what seemed to be an almost irresistible power. There was no noise, no vibration, nor the slightest sign of heating, and the tremendous frame of ironwork moved with as much ease as if every rod and crank had been worked for the last ten years. The steam in the boilers was about 21lb., but, as a matter of course, the engines were turned but slowly, never exceeding six revolutions per minute. Even with this slow motion, and the slight immersion of the paddle-floats, the effect of the enormous power was at once visible upon the ship. The great mooring chains astern were tightened to the utmost, and it seemed as if Trotman's anchors themselves would yield under the strain. However, these held fast, and then the screw-engines were got into motion,

working the ship astern, so as to counteract the effect of the paddles. These latter engines worked with the same ease and freedom; and the result was considered by the engineers on board to be satisfactory in the highest degree.

The engines having been tested to the last, to which they could be tried with a vessel at her moorings, the visitors adjourned to the saloons, where a magnificent cold collation had been laid out. This, in spite of the rather pungent atmosphere which had been evoked from the Thames by the movement of the screw and paddles, soon received ample justice; and, at its conclusion, Mr. J. R. Campbell, the managing director of the company, and who, from the time the first idea of the ship was started, eight years ago, has worked untiringly to carry it out to its present completion and perfection, gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts. These were drunk with the utmost enthusiasm, and duly responded to—that of the Navy by Sir Charles Napier, and of the Army by General Bulkeley.

Lord Stanley, in proposing the toast of the day, said:—

You have all heard or read what the Great Eastern has been built to do. You are aware that she is calculated, according to the reckoning of her projectors, to make the passage from England to Calcutta in thirty-three days. We know that she is intended to carry her coal-beth for the outward and the homeward voyage, so as to save that enormous time and expense which at present arise, of necessity, for establishing coal depots in distant parts of the world. You know that she is calculated to carry a population of not much less than 10,000, including her crew—a population so large that I almost wonder the company have not applied to the House of Commons to have the Great Eastern included in the new Reform Bill, in the list of Parliamentary boroughs for the new schedule. You know that if the enterprise shall succeed it will constitute one of the most remarkable experiments of the time in which we live. It will have reduced by one half the distance in point of time which now divides continents and nations which nature has separated by intervening oceans, but which science and trade are, as it were, tending, in despite of nature, to unite. You know that if this grand experiment succeeds it will be a greater progress in the art of shipbuilding than has ever been accomplished in one generation. You know that if the experiment succeeds it will render the passage over the stormy ocean to remote countries easy and as free from discomfort to the landsman, and even to the landswoman, as the ordinary railway train is at present. You know, also, that the experiment, if it succeeds, will stimulate and develop trade to an almost incredible extent; and that will enable this country, if unhappy the occasion should again arise, to pour into our great empire of the East reinforcements and aid with a rapidity equal to that of the overland line, and by a route which England has always claimed as her own peculiar highway, and over which no foreign potentate can exercise control. I would say, also, that the success of this undertaking will—I do not say tend to solve that great political problem of our time which is known as the Eastern Question, but at least that it will render the solution of that problem a question of far less practical importance to England than it is at present. Because it is well recognised and understood by any English statesman that the principal interest—I do not say the sole interest, but by far the principal interest—which England has in Egypt, and the countries immediately adjoining Egypt, arises from the necessity of possessing, at all times and under all circumstances, an uninterrupted and rapid communication with the British possessions in India. That communication it is now proposed to supply with greater independence and with equal rapidity by a new line, and, so far, it is hardly too much to say that you will have for all practical purposes superseded the Overland route. I need say no more with respect to this unimportant, but I may be permitted before I sit down to give you the toast which I intend to propose, which is "Prosperity to the Great Eastern," and with that toast I shall couple the name of Mr. Campbell and the directors.

Mr. Campbell having responded to the toast, "The healths of Mr. Brunel and Mr. Scott Russell, the engineer and builder of the ship," were next given. Mr. Scott Russell responded on the part of both, regretting the absence of Mr. Brunel, explaining his own share in the construction of the great ship, and bearing high testimony to the share of his colleague as the originator of the great idea.

These toasts concluded the proceedings of the day, and shortly afterwards the assembly broke up.

This interesting meeting was followed on Wednesday by a gathering on board of the friends of the builder, Mr. Scott Russell, who, to the number of nearly 1000, assembled, first, to congratulate him upon the successful completion of all his contracts in connection with this vessel; secondly, to partake of his liberal hospitality aboard; and thirdly, to enjoy the relaxation of a "dance on deck," which the presence of some 400 or 500 ladies rendered a perfect success. The affair passed of delightfully.

We believe it is hardly yet settled where the first experimental trip is to extend to, but the general rumour on board was that the ship will first proceed some three or four hundred miles out to sea and return, without any person on board save the captain, officers, and crew. This trip concluded, she will make her first voyage to Portland, in the United States, early next month.

THE WILD-GOOSE STORY.—Sir William Armstrong writes—"Who made the wonderful shot that brought down a wild goose at six miles and seven furlongs? This is a question that meets me everywhere, and, disagreeable though it be to spoil a marvellous story, I am obliged to answer—Nobody. A wild goose certainly was shot by a shell from one of our guns at a distance somewhat short of half a mile; and, although half a mile is not to be regarded as the limit of safe distance for a goose to stand at, yet I am bound to say that six miles and seven furlongs is a range which as yet has only been reached with the long bow."

A PLAN FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF ITALY.—The *Independent* of Turin of the 5th of August contains the following:—"The Sardinian Government should profit by the favourable disposition of her powerful ally the Emperor Napoleon, and the good feeling entertained by Russia and England to obtain a scrupulous promise that there shall be no intervention in the affairs of Tuscany, the Duchies, or the Legations; the convocation of the European Congress within a short time; that Modena, Parma, and Piacenza shall continue to respect their union with Piedmont, which was voted in 1848, and unanimously confirmed with so much ardour; that Tuscany shall be left free to propose to the European Congress a list of Princes, among whom should be chosen one to succeed the Lorraine dynasty, which it will be impossible to maintain in future; that the Legations shall be endowed with laws and institutions in harmony with the civilisation of the age; that the administration of Venetia shall be especially adapted to the national Italian character; that all foreign armies shall be rigorously excluded from Italian territory, whatever may be the reason of their proposed introduction or maintenance; that all the Governments of the peninsula shall be led to adopt those political reforms which will become indispensably necessary, in order to prevent the conflicts which would otherwise arise each instant, in consequence of the different institutions of the various States. These conditions are in accordance with the preliminaries of Villafranca, and the subsequent declarations of the Emperor of the French. They are consequently possible."

THE SULTAN'S EXCUSE.—I tried every available source of information. Would the expedition really come off? If so, when and for what place would the start be made? I might have spared myself the trouble. His Imperial Majesty himself could have given me no certain information; he knew as little about the time of his departure as the man in the moon—probably less, as that time depended on the stars. For some days nothing appeared certain. The chief of the astrologers would not be hurried into a decision on so important a matter; and he was right. The weather had been threatening and unsettled, and a little sea-sickness might have materially shaken the faith of his Imperial Majesty, if not in the mysteries of the occult science itself, at least in the proficiency of its high priest. At length the oracle was delivered, and with a very creditable degree of precision. Twenty-one minutes past five o'clock, Turkish time, or shortly after noon on Saturday, was fixed upon as the auspicious moment for the Sultan's departure; and I am happy to be able to bear testimony to the perfect serenity of sea and sky at that hour. Prior to the embarkation of the Princes of the Royal family a line of artillerymen, two deep, had been formed along the quays adjoining the palace. The men had evidently been selected for the occasion, and appeared to me as the body of troops as any army in Europe could furnish. The Turkish artilleryman, like the soldier in that branch of our own service, is better dressed than the ordinary troops of the line, and in the present instance there was an absence of that slovenliness which usually pervades even the best portion of the Turkish army. Indeed, neatness was carried to an extreme. The men had evidently not marched far, and appeared in perfect trim. The pipers lay aspirations of the officer in command were not, however, fully satisfied; for I observed a soldier come up to one end of the line with something like a hairbrush in his hand. One never knows what to expect in this country, and I really imagined, for a moment, that the brush was about to be applied to the men's heads. The mystery was soon explained. It is plain in such a case as this to execute a couple of quick steps to very slow time, and while the foremost of his feet was in the air it was freed from dust by the man with the brush, who passed along the whole line, performing his duty with considerable rapidity.—*Correspondent of the Times.*



"COLLECTING CALVES IN THE VALLEY OF TOUCÉ"—[FROM A PICTURE, BY M. PALIZZI, IN THE FRENCH EXHIBITION.]

“COLLECTING CALVES IN NORMANDY,” which equal and even excel our own reared on the pastures of Normandy, which are of immense extent; in fact, Normandy is the finest meadow lands, and are of immense extent; in fact, Normandy is the finest cattle-breeding province in France. All those who have visited France have undoubtedly fed off French veal, either served in the shape of a ragout, a rôti, a friandise, a tête de veau, or a foie de veau, and all those who have thus feasted will allow that the said French veal, cooked in its divers fashions, is a most excellent meat. Our neighbours may talk about their “rosbifs,” their “biftecks,” and their “gigots,” and we may laugh contemptuously; but when it comes to a question of veal, why, we think they have the advantage, and may wear the calf-skin becomingly.

Now, it is not astonishing that, real being remarkably good in France, it should be the favourite carnivorous food across the Channel, and consequently, the consumption is very great indeed—much greater than of any other meat. It necessarily stands to reason that unusual attention is paid to the rearing of the youthful victims, doomed to an early death to satisfy the cravings of a gourmand appetite. The calves in greatest repute are those

of such marching than he would in six months’ routine life in the huts at Aldershot. There is as much difference between soldiering in barracks and soldiering on a campaign as there is between a yacht race and a naval engagement;

The march of improvement is showing itself strongly at the camp, which now boasts its “influentiel organ,” in the shape of a weekly paper entitled the *Aldershot Military Gazette*. As may be supposed, it is almost exclusively devoted to camp affairs, giving the general news of the cantonments, current on *dits*, rumours of approaching changes, and of changes that some times never approach at all. It is, however, both useful and popular at camp, and likely to be so with those who have friends there. From it we learn that the numbers of persons in camp on the 1st inst. (and the number still remains much the same) was 24,192—viz., 99 officers, 197 sergeants and file ; wives of officers and soldiers, 1407 ; children of drivers, 100. The number of horses was at the same date 1501, but at present the number of horses is not over 1400.

THE CAMP AT ALDERSHOT.

Within this month the troops at Aldershot have begun to “camp out” in real earnest. A regiment stationed under canvas for a month experiences only the least discomfort of the most comfortable of all modes of life.

Officers are to a certain extent free to choose the position of their tents, and are able to indulge in the luxuries of a trench round their canvas boudoir—perhaps a rustic seat outside, or even an impromptu garden of wild flowers. Under such an arrangement, of course, no one can

interminable exigencies and mishaps incident to daily marching and night camping anywhere can well be learnt, and the Duke of Cambridge and the camp authorities, therefore, have very wisely determined to accustom both men and officers to this most disagreeable phase of a soldier’s life. For this purpose each foot brigade, accompanied by a proportionate force of cavalry and artillery, takes its turn to march out to Woolmer, and after remaining there a day or two, returns to Aldershot by a different route, halting after each day’s march, and camping on whatever ground is best adapted for the purpose.

On these marches everything is strictly according to the military rules of service before the enemy. The same outpost duty, and almost the same vigilance on the part of the pickets, are exercised. The men, too, live not only on rations, but have to kill their own meat and make and braise their own rations. It is impossible to overestimate the value and importance of these privations. It is the latter additions to the soldier’s training. The whole idea, indeed, of the Aldershot system is to make the soldier learn more of his practical duties in a week

than he would in six months’ routine life in the huts at Aldershot. There is as much difference between soldiering in barracks and soldiering on a campaign as there is between a yacht race and a naval engagement;

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horses is not over 1400.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S OFFICE.

The new offices of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company are another addition to the ornamental features of the eastern portion of the metropolis. They are situated in Leadenhall-street, facing the India House, and the architect is Mr. Currey, of Lancaster-place. The building is composed of two stories above the basement, terminated by a handsome cornice and pediment. The face is ornamented with pilasters, the basement being semi-rusticated; the three large arched windows of the first floor are divided by polished granite columns into two lights; the two smaller are single lights. In front of the centre window, and over the carriage entrance, is placed a shield with symbols of the four quarters of the globe. The upper floor has square windows, corresponding with those of the base, but presenting a somewhat squat appearance. The pediment is crowned with a figure of Neptune; a somewhat used-up emblem, that has certainly no connection with the nineteenth century. On the four piers over the clustered pilasters is a delicate vane. The basement has a large central arch, leading to the quadrangle of the main building. On each side of this central or carriage way is a passage for foot-passengers, divided from the centre opening by massive cast-iron pillars. The offices are ranged on either side of these footways. On the left is a staircase leading to the rooms above, one of which is set apart as a dining-room for the directors. On the right hand underground is the bullion-chamber, protected by iron doors, and having a place for raising or lowering the precious metal by hydraulic means. The whole of the building is fireproof.

THE LAUNCH OF THE BACCHANTE.

At a moment when there is a great outcry as to England's weakness on the element she has hitherto ruled, it is with a feeling of pleasure we are enabled to chronicle the activity at present reigning in our dock-yards. A proof of this activity, which will soon make England's wooden walls as strong as ever, is to be found in the numerous fine ships that have lately been added to our much-underrated Navy. Most of these ships are of a class pronounced by com-



THE NEW OFFICES OF THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM-NAVIGATION COMPANY.

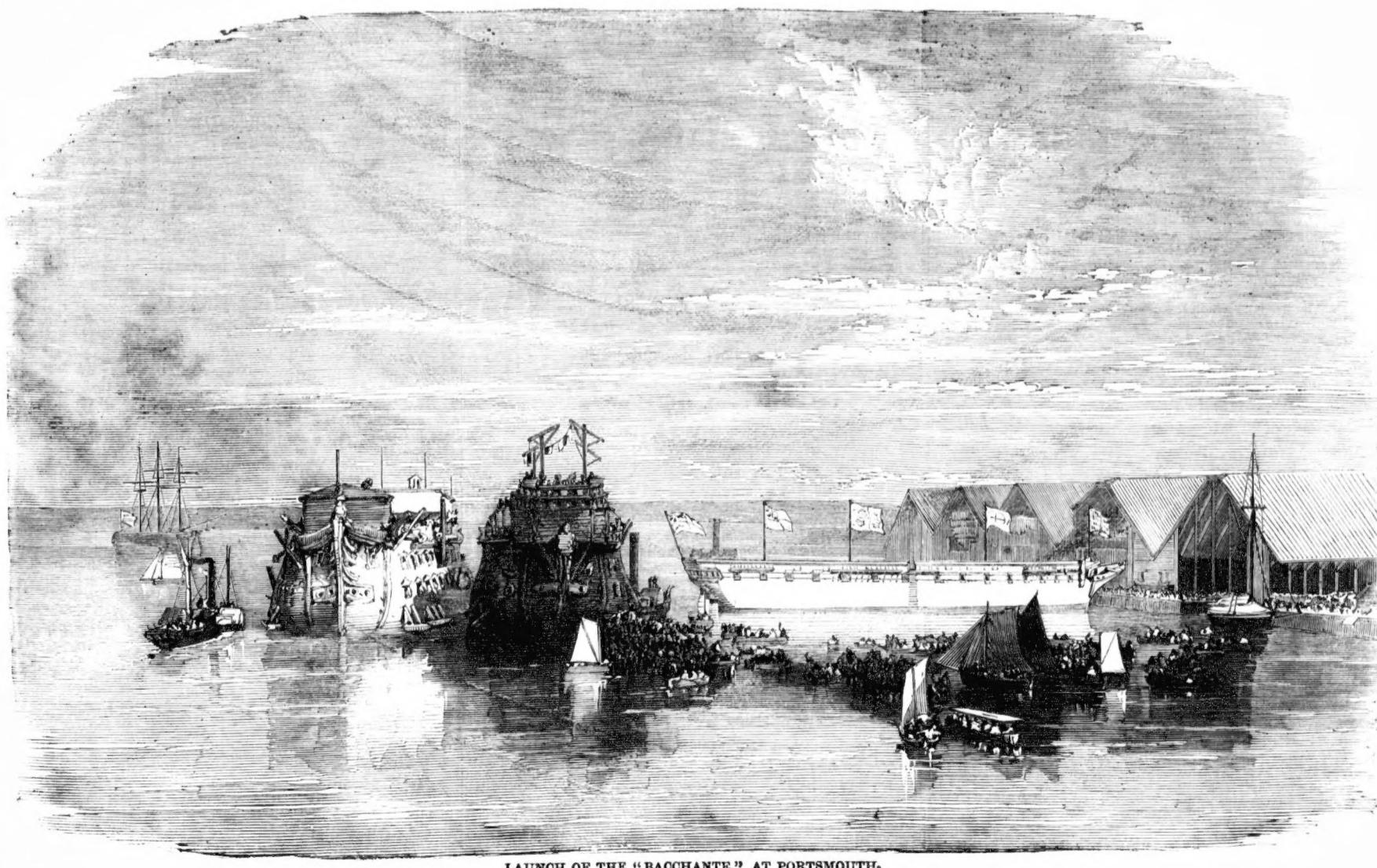
petent authorities to be the most serviceable in naval warfare—viz., fifty-gun frigates.

On the 30th ultimo another of these splendid vessels left her cradle at Portsmouth, and as a sign of precocity took a bottle of wine at her own christening, where she received the name of the Bacchante. Prince Alfred arrived in the Fairy from Osborne, and was present during the proceedings. He appeared to take great interest in the explanations made to him of the position of the cradle and "ways," the action of the dogshores, screws, the hydraulic-pump, &c.

Shortly after the arrival of the Royal "middy," Admiral Bowles, naval Commander-in-Chief, and Rear-Admiral the Hon. G. Grey, accompanied by Miss Bowles, who was to perform the ceremony of christening, made their appearance on the platform, close to the vessel's bows, from which was suspended the bottle of wine, wreathed with red, white, and blue ribbons. The preparations for the launch of the ship being completed, Miss Bowles came forward, and, with the words "Success to the Bacchante!" swung the bottle forward. The dogshores were now knocked away, and the noble fabric slowly and majestically glided into the water amid the cheers of the assembled spectators and the strains of the National Anthem, played by the band of the Royal Marines. The Bacchante is built from the designs of Sir B. W. Walker, and is pierced for fifty-one guns. Her engines are of 600-horse power (nominal). The following are her principal dimensions:—Length between perpendiculars, 235 feet; length of keel for tonnage, 203 feet 5 inches; extreme breadth, 50 feet; breadth for tonnage, 49 feet 6 inches; moulded breadth, 48 feet 8 inches; depth in hold, 17 feet 8 inches; burden in tons, o.m., 2651 39'94. Another frigate, to be called the Glasgow, will be immediately laid down in the same shed from which the Bacchante was launched.

THE REMAINS OF THE BURNED SHIP EASTERN MONARCH, lying in shoal near the mouth of Portsmouth harbour, were sold by public auction for £900. The purchaser, immediately after the auction, resold his bargain to a third party for 1000 guineas.

THE IMPERIAL YACHT the *Aigle* is to leave Cherbourg on the 16th, for Biarritz, to be in attendance on the Emperor and Empress for their excursions during the season.



LAUNCH OF THE "BACCHANTE," AT PORTSMOUTH.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE season of the Royal Italian Opera terminated on Saturday last with the sixth performance of "Dinorah." It was unfortunate that it should be necessary to close the theatre just as the interest respecting M. Meyerbeer's new opera had reached its greatest height. Next season, it is true, "Dinorah" will have all the attraction of novelty for a large portion of the public, but the general enthusiasm will have had time to cool; and, though lovers of music will wish to hear the "Pardon de Ploërmel" again and again, many of those who are influenced in their likings and dislikings by newspapers will have half forgotten that it is a work which, on its first production, "all London" hurried to see.

The attendance at the Royal Italian Opera on each of the last six nights was most numerous, but especially so on the last five nights, when every place in the house was let beforehand, and late comers (that is to say, those who arrived after the commencement of the overture) were unable to effect even an entry into the pit; all they could do was to stand at the back, between the two little staircases, listening to the music, but without obtaining a glimpse of any part of the stage.

It will appear strange to many of our readers that the audience should have been somewhat less numerous on the first than on any of the succeeding nights of "Dinorah"; but the explanation, in a commercial country like ours, is simple enough. The first night of a new opera, even when the composer is Meyerbeer, is never very fully attended by that unfortunate portion of the public which has to pay. The commercial cognoscenti will not risk their money. "*Aliquando dormitat*" may be said of every man of genius—of Meyerbeer as of Homer; and what a sad thing it would be, after paying six guineas for a box, the wealthy amateur should discover that the new work is comparatively a failure! After the notices in the journals have appeared the affair is quite different. The *Times* has done honour to the opera in an article nearly three columns long, and the *Morning Post* has devoted three columns and a half merely to the instrumentation of the first act. There can no longer be any doubt; the success of the great work is established, and people who "know the value of money" may pay extravagant prices for their boxes and stalls in peace.

If it had been possible to retain the singers we believe Mr. Gye might have given at least six more representations of "Dinorah," as lucrative as those which have already taken place. As it is, the season has concluded with a triumph; and we should be glad to hear that Madame Miolan, who has contributed so much towards that result, has been engaged permanently as the light soprano of the Royal Italian Opera company. Of course it is impossible to replace Madame Bosio; but most of the parts which that much-regretted vocalist was in the habit of assuming would be represented by Madame Miolan far more efficiently than by any other singer. Besides, Mr. Gye wants at the Royal Italian Opera what is called a "star." He has one artist (among the ladies engaged) who is the next thing to perfection, as regards both voice and style—we mean, of course, Madlle. Nantier-Didée. Of the others, though none, perhaps, have a deterring effect on the public, not one can be said to "attract." In Madame Grisi we see the well-preserved remains of a once magnificent singer. Madlle. Lotti has promise, and, in spite of a certain hardness of style, is already a very useful vocalist, especially in Verdi's operas. Madame Penco is more than useful: she is ornamental, and is really a most accomplished singer. But she has neither the perfection of style, nor the inspiration, nor any of those rare gifts which, together, constitute the talent or the genius of an artist of the highest order, such as the late Madame Bosio was, and such as Madame Miolan Carvalho, to a certain extent, undoubtedly is. Madame Miolan is the only vocalist that has appeared during the present season at Covent Garden who possesses in any remarkable degree grace, or that indefinable quality called charm. People like to listen to operas in which the principal parts are sustained by Madame Didice, Madame Lotti, Madame Penco, and—with greater merits and greater defects—by Madame Grisi; but they would go to an opera in which Madame Miolan played for the sake of Madame Miolan herself—as we used formerly to go to hear Madame Bosio in *Gilda*, *Norma*, *Zerlina*, *Violetta*, or whatever other character she chose to assume.

We do not propose to indulge in any very long review of the Royal Italian Opera season. We all know what has been lost and what has been gained. No number of Lottis and Pencos could compensate for the one great loss; but it would under any circumstances have been a gain to secure the services of such an admirable artist as Madame Miolan, who is at present quite at the head of the school of light, brilliant vocalists. We did a temporary injustice to this lady in our first notice of the "Pardon de Ploërmel" by speaking of her as deficient in those qualities which are included in the general term "expression." The fact is, Madame Miolan, the first night, did sing the "legend" and the rare fragments of sustained melody which fall to her lot with a certain tremulousness, but this was not noticeable at the subsequent representations. Her voice is deficient in volume (the weakest notes being the medium), but everything that art can teach she knows. She has great natural feeling, or rather, we should say, exquisite sensibility; and, finally, she does sing with expression.

Until the production of the "Pardon de Ploërmel" the chief honours of the season were gained exclusively by the male members of the troupe—that is, by Mario in the "Huguenots," Tamberlik in "Otello," and, above all, by Ronconi in "Maria di Rohan."

Debassini, the new, or rather the restored, baritone (he was in the habit of singing in London many years since), is an intelligent, artistic performer, with very little power. We do not mean by this merely that he cannot shout, which is scarcely a disadvantage, but that he cannot sing a flowing *legato* passage creditably even in a whisper.

Mario's voice has failed him frequently this season; but at times, and especially in the "Huguenots," he has sung more dramatically and better in other respects than he ever sang before. At present there is a virility in his tones that belongs to few other tenor voices (to none that we know of except that of Mongini, who, however, as a singer can only be regarded as an apprentice), and he acts not only with high discernment but with a vigour that was quite unknown to him in his younger days.

Tamberlik's voice (its inevitable tremulousness apart) has still that sonorous, ringing quality which has always distinguished it. In "Otello" in the duet with Iago he sings with a distinctness and forcefulness of enunciation which, according to experienced critics, will soon be matters only of memory—the majority of our rising singers being quite deficient in those very essential qualities for vocalists laying claim to the title of "dramatic." Ronconi, as Iago, was not less admirable—we mean in a vocal sense, for, as an actor, he has no superior anywhere.

What an Otello Ronconi would be if Otello were only written for a baritone voice! His portrayal of jealousy in "Maria di Rohan" is terrible to behold; and scarcely more terrible from the anger of the outraged husband than from the poignant, heartfelt grief of the betrayed friend.

We have said that none of the ladies of the troupe—not even the accomplished Madlle. Didée—particularly distinguished themselves until the production of the "Pardon de Ploërmel," when the artist just named gained almost as much credit as Madame Miolan herself, by her rendering of "The Goatsherds Song," written specially for her by Meyerbeer.

In Norma Madame Grisi reminded the public how great she had once been. People put up with Madame Grisi's opening scenes now for the sake of her concluding ones. Strange that a singer with such a great name should consent to be tolerated in any form!

It would be somewhat premature, now, to speculate on what operas will be produced at Covent Garden next season. We trust, however, that some of the light Italian operas will be given for Madame Miolan Carvalho (supposing that lady to be engaged); and, as Verdi is still the composer of the day, Mr. Gye would do well to bring out the long-promised "Vépées Siciliennes."

The only concert of interest that we have to record is one given at the Crystal Palace, last Saturday, for the benefit of Mr. Manns, the director of the Crystal Palace orchestra. The singers were Madlle.

Artôt, Madames Vinning and Weiss, and Messrs. Sims Reeves and Weiss; the instrumentalists being Miss Arabella Goddard, Madlle. Sophie Humler (violin), and Herr Engel (harmonium). The honours of the entertainment were divided between Madlle. Artôt and Miss Goddard.

THE ART UNION PRIZE PICTURES.

The policy of publicly exhibiting the pictures selected by the prize-holders in the London Art-Union might be questioned, but that we suppose it cannot well be avoided. Much of the value of a prize, in the estimation of its fortunate possessor, no doubt, exists in the triumph of seeing it displayed on the walls of a public gallery and blazoned forth in print, as "selected by Mr. So-and-so," from this, that, or the other Fine-Art Exhibition; and we fancy there would be a tremendous outcry, not to say "strike," among the subscribers if any attempt were made to abolish this inestimable privilege. It is a perfectly natural weakness, and by no means confined to Art-Union spectators. We none of us like hiding our candle under a bushel. There would be very few warriors, we take it, if triumphal arches, congratulatory addresses, ribbons, stars, and garters were done away with. Even the popular and widely-spread pastime of love-making would be less prevalent if a favoured swain here and there were not permitted to boast of his *bonnes fortunes*. The Art-Union directors are, perhaps, wise in their generation in thus flattering the harmless vanity of their patrons. But there is this penalty attached to the concession—rather a grave one as it seems to us—that it is calculated to bring a praiseworthy and really well-working institution into contempt. The collective taste and wisdom of the representative prize-holders as paraded on the walls of the Suffolk-street Gallery is not a sight to be proud of. It provokes invidious comparisons between the promise and the performance. The Art-Union, as its printed manifestos constantly inform us, "was established to promote the knowledge and love of the fine arts and their general advancement in the British empire." The means employed in furtherance of this desirable end are well known; and they are excellent. But, when public attention is called to one of those exhibitions as a triumphant result already obtained, a feeling of disappointment is apt to be generated. "Is this all?" the impatient and unreflecting spectator inquires, fatigued with his hopeless search after a gleam of excellence through the dreary vista of conventional mediocrity. "Is this the kind of art in the knowledge and love of which so much pains have been taken to educate the British people?" And he will most likely come to the conclusion arrived at by Sam Weller's proverbial schoolboy, that it was "hardly worth while going through so much to learn so little."

The fact is, the real good effected by art-unions is not by the means of their prize lotteries. These may be considered a mere bait or bonus for the encouragement of subscribers. The actual benefit is produced by their lavish distribution of first-class prints, exquisite bronzes, statuettes, photographs, and medallions at a rate of cheapness that a few years ago would have been pronounced fabulous and impossible. Let the lotteries continue by all means. They bring comfort to many a struggling artist and spread delight in many a simple household. But do not, if the thing can possibly be avoided, let their results be exhibited as a proof of the quality of taste encouraged by the institution. There are many reasons why these exhibitions should be what they usually are. A hundred odd persons selected by hazard out of many thousands, chiefly of the middle classes, are not likely to be endowed with any miraculous gifts of connoisseurship. They will naturally select such pictures as please them best; and let it not be forgotten, such as the amount of their prizes will enable them to purchase. The prices demanded (and happily obtained) by our first-class painters place their works above the reach of the Art-Union prizeholder. Then, there is the inevitable clause of favouritism to be considered. A man who has an unexpected sum of money to lay out on picture will naturally wish to transfer it to the pocket of a relative, friend, or townsmen. Caprice, ignorance, false counsel—a hundred causes—will combine to induce the rejection of meritorious works in favour of worthless ones. In a few words, the existing state of things may be defended by the Englishman's inalienable privilege of "doing what he likes with his own."

But we repeat, these public exhibitions are a mistake calculated to bring discredit on the institution of which they are the mere incidental offshoots, and not (as they are injudiciously made to appear) the ultimate end and aim.

The collection of the current year, now in the course of exhibition at Suffolk-street, is even unusually meagre. Such a wholesale apotheosis of mediocrities and sub-mediocrities was perhaps never before witnessed. Mr. Shayer is there in full feebleness, with his traditional brown trees, red-clad gipsy woman, old white horse, and rugged donkey, just as we remember them in our earliest childhood. Mr. Herring has a farmyard, with his usual quantity of flesh-coloured pigs in uncommonly stiff straw—a work apparently of such colossal difficulty as to require the assistance of Mr. A. F. Rolfe in its execution. To the latter gentleman we are probably indebted for a prevailing tone of dull cerulean, somewhat suggestive of domestic operations connected with the laundry department. There are the usual clever woodland, mountain, and river stereotypes by that wonderful firm of wholesale landscape-manufacturers, Messrs. Williams, Boddington, Jutsum, Percy, Pettitt, and Co. Those gentlemen are as crisp, as facile, as effective, as *nearly* truthful as ever. But that hair's-breadth barrier separating them from the threshold of truth itself they seem as incapable of passing as heretofore. Another disappointing genius—who has bartered his artistic soul to the demon of Trick and Facility—Mr. Niemann, exhibits the commencement of a fine picture, which he has succeeded in spoiling with his usual slovenly dexterity. This is No. 48, "A View of Whitby, from Upgang." The background of this picture, consisting of an approaching storm, reflected in a lake, is well conceived and excellently painted. Here the artist's powers appear to have given way, and the foreground has been left to take care of itself. Mr. Woolmer has a pink and pearly-cheeked maiden in the usual broacades, and backed by the usual "properties"—cedar grove, terrace, and prismatic Turner-ish fog. We did not observe the peacock this time, but we presume he is to be found somewhere or other about the canvas. Landscape is the staple commodity of the collection. The only noticeable figure-subjects are Mr. Crowe's "Milton Visiting Galileo in the Prisons of the Inquisition," from the Royal Academy (a well-studied picture, containing some excellent drawing and vivid imitation of still life, but lamentably deficient in delineation of character). "Casilian Almsgiving," by Mr. Burgess, and "Rain on Fair-day," by Mr. Lidderdale. The last a very simple study of a girl in holiday dress looking ruefully out of an old-fashioned window at the pouring rain—is the only good picture in the exhibition. Stop! we retract. Immediately under it hangs a little flower piece by Miss Mutrie, composed of a red and a white camellia, contrasted by their own dark glossy leaves. This really dazzling little gem shines out from the mass of obscurity by which it is surrounded like a star in the dark.

There are a few water-colour drawings, not by any means the least creditable part of the exhibition. The best are by Messrs. Philip, Callow, Dodgson, and Richardson, and have already been noticed in our columns—at the time of their exhibition in the various galleries from which they have been selected.

A TOWN IN GERMANY DESTROYED BY FIRE.—The Continental journals have of late frequently contained accounts of most destructive fires in various parts of Europe, caused in a great measure by the excessive heat that has prevailed. The latest instance of the kind is the destruction of the town of Kloster, in which a fearful fire broke out on the afternoon of July 23, and in which no less than 165 houses were reduced to ashes and several persons burnt to death. Others are missing, and were supposed to be suffocated in the cellars. All efforts to extinguish the flames were useless, in consequence of the high wind, the narrowness of the streets, and the circumstance that so many of the houses were built of wood; besides, several of the fire-engines, which had been brought too near the conflagration, were obliged to be abandoned, and were consumed. By this calamity about 1000 persons were left without a roof, without nourishment, and without clothes. The entire town was destroyed by fire in 1782.

BARBAROUS MURDER NEAR LEEDS.

MR. RICHARD BROUGHTON, a man sixty-seven years of age, resided in Rose Cottage-yard, Roundhay, a pretty little village several miles north-east of Leeds. He was formerly office-keeper at a solicitor's in Leeds, but had recently been living on his means, on Saturday evening, about five o'clock, he started for Leeds to buy food for his ducks, and he had them a florin in his pocket and his watch. He was passing along the road leading from Horseshoe-lane to Harehills, both in the township of Gipton, and had arrived at a thick wooded portion of the park called the Oak Pasture, when he was attacked by a couple of men, one of whom was armed with a heavy stick. Two blows from this weapon rendered him insensible; but it would appear that even after the poor man was incapacitated from resisting them their brutal attack was continued, for Mr. Broughton's head bore five serious wounds. Whether the ruffians were disturbed or not cannot now be ascertained, but they appear to have made off with Mr. Broughton's watch, leaving the florin untouched.

The old man did not long remain in a state of unconsciousness, and on regaining his feet he continued his walk towards Leeds, in great excitement. Four or five lads, who were going to bathe, walked along with him for upwards of half a mile, and he then turned round and proceeded homewards. Blood was then running copiously from the wounds in his head. Presently the unfortunate man was met by Barber, a farmer and a neighbour. Barber asked him what was the matter? He made no reply; but, on Barber taking off Broughton's hat, he observed several wounds in his head. He was then evidently exhausted, and could hardly speak beyond the exclamation, "Two men! two men!" Barber inquired, "Have they robbed you?" The old man replied, "Two shillings," taking the florin out of his pocket, and then returning it. Barber had to go a little further, and Broughton said he thought he was able to walk home. Barber said he would overtake him; but the poor fellow was in such a state of excitement that he walked home at so rapid a pace that Barber was unable again to come up with him. Arrived at home, the dangerous nature of the injuries Broughton had received were immediately apparent, and in an hour or two he relapsed into a state of insensibility, from which he never rallied. Mr. Barber was called into the house of the deceased immediately after his return home, and he asked Broughton who had attacked him? He replied, "Two men; one went up the hill slowly before me, till he got to the top; then another man met us from another road; and then one of them struck me twice over the head. I know nothing more." The only description he could give of the men was that one was a young man, and the other older. To the Rev. Mr. Davis he gave an account somewhat similar. He said, "There were two men. One went by me; the other struck me over the head twice. They were dressed somewhat like working men. One had a jacket on, I think." Broughton died on Sunday afternoon. The inquest was opened on Monday, but was almost immediately adjourned until next Wednesday, to allow time for a post-mortem examination, and for further inquiry. Suspicion has fallen upon a certain young man unknown, "about five feet four inches high, stout built, broad set, broad chubby features, dark hair cut short behind, dressed in a dark cloth or velvet shooting-coat, dark cotton trousers, mended on the seat, and wearing clogs." The watch was an old-fashioned German silver timekeeper, the maker's name being "R. E. Cramber, London, No. 3063."

FATAL EXPLOSION OF GUNPOWDER AT BALLINCOLLIG.

On Saturday morning an explosion of gunpowder occurred at the Ballincollig Powder-mills, near Cork.

The scene of the disaster was the storehouse at the western extremity on the banks of the river known as No. 1 Dusting-house, but by others described as a refining-house. At the time of the disaster five men were engaged at the house in removing the powder stored in kegs into a boat on the canal, by which communication is effected between the several departments of the mills along the banks of the river. The unfortunate men thus engaged were blown to pieces.

Three of the bodies when discovered are described as mere black masses of flesh and bone, only distinguished by fragments of dress which hung by them. Of the bodies of the other two not a limb remained; but their relations might be seen wandering over the adjacent fields, picking up black fragments of flesh and bone, which no doubt formed part of their living bodies two hours before.

The cause of the disaster must for ever remain a mystery, as not one of them who knew it, if indeed any of them knew it, now survives to account for it. As to the dusting-house or refining-house at which the catastrophe occurred, not as much as a stone of it remains, even from the foundation; for the very ground on which it stood has been blown up and rooted away as if a mine had exploded beneath it. The house was situated at the extremity of a fence planted with fir and other trees; these trees were torn up from the very roots and now lie scattered about the fields. On the other side of the river, by the roadside, are four or five small slate houses, the roofs of which were shattered and knocked away by the mass of stone from the exploded refining-house.

At the inquest nothing transpired to show how the accident originated. The jury returned a verdict of "accidental death."

THREE SHIPS BURNED.—The American ship *Josephine*, nearly 1000 tons register, from Akyab, for Falmouth, with a cargo of rice, was totally destroyed by fire, in the harbour of Mauritius, on the 10th ult. The loss is calculated at £10,000.—The *Glance*, 1200 tons register, was on its way from New York to Hamburg, with a cargo of 5000 barrels of rice, 12,000 hales of cotton, &c. A Dover pilot boarded the ship in the Channel on Saturday last, and on Sunday night, when off the Flemish Bank, her cargo was discovered to be on fire. All sail was made for Broushaway, and, although they afterwards obtained assistance of a steamer to tow her, the ship could not get the ship further than the entrance of the river, when the flames compelled the crew to take to the boats. In a few hours the ship was burnt to the water's edge. Loss estimated at £15,000.—The *Eliza Bain*, a Glasgow-built vessel, took fire in Kingston harbour on Sunday morning, and, spite of all attempts to save her, was totally destroyed. Several persons were injured by the falling of the masts.

FRENCH MARSHALS AT LOGGERHEADS.—The *Moniteur* says:—"The Marshal commanding the 3rd corps of the Army of Italy (Canrobert) objected to a passage in the report in the battle of Solferino, addressed to the Emperor by the Commander of the 4th corps (Niel). His Majesty he ordered the insertion of the following note:—It is said in this passage that the 3rd corps only gave its support to the 4th towards the end of the day. Nevertheless, upon his arrival at the village of Medole, Marshal Canrobert sent the first troops of Renault's division by the *Cerégara* for the purpose of covering the right flank of the 4th corps. The presence of these troops has, therefore, as its result, from ten o'clock in the forenoon, to remove from General Niel all apprehension as to the attacks he might have to fear on his right flank, which was only guarded by three of his battalions. It is just, therefore, to acknowledge that Marshal Canrobert had already given useful support to the 4th corps, before the hour when Renault's division came and occupied the village of Rebecco in order to enable General Niel to withdraw from it a part of Lucy's division, at the same time that the first brigade of Trochu's division was fighting in the midst of the troops of the 4th corps. Besides, General Niel could not have the intention, in his report to the Emperor, to incriminate in any way the conduct of Marshal Canrobert, whose chivalrous character is well known. It appears that the Marshals of France are at loggerheads generally. We read:—"Canrobert and Niel are at daggers drawn, protesting against each other in the newspapers; and Baraguay d'Hilliers and M'Mahon are not upon speaking terms, or they would have fought long ago. Baraguay d'Hilliers is the only one amongst them who approves of the Emperor's prudence in putting a sudden end to the war, but, as nothing pleases at this precise moment of our history, even this approval has given displeasure, and the Marshal has been requested to keep, if not his approbation to himself, at all events the reasons why he feels it."

THE WEATHER OF JULY.—July, 1857, was the hottest month on record, beginning our data with the daily and slightly readings of thermometer at Greenwich, which were not regularly noted till 1771. Our usual mean temperature for July is 63 deg. for night and day together; sometimes it is under 60 deg., while in a few years we have noted it about 66 deg., and in 1852 it was 68½ deg.; but July, 1859, has produced a mean as high as 69 deg. and 6½-deg.—more than 6½ deg. above usual mean! The maximum in the shade was 93 deg. on the 18th, as noticed in last report, and 135 deg. in the sun at Greenwich and 140 deg. in London.

